



The View from Main and Marshall



While in many respects Labor Day marks the unofficial end of the summer season it's also a time of new beginnings, especially for the educators and students in our local schools.

As part of the preparation for the new school year, I joined Superintendent Malkas and school administrators in doing building walkthroughs at the schools in the [North Adams district](#). I found it invaluable to see how the district is preparing for the new school year, and to recognize the attention to detail, safety, and inclusion that happens behind the scenes to ensure that everything is ready when the doors open on the first day of school.

On a personal note, I especially enjoyed the walkthrough of Colegrove Park Elementary School. The building itself is impressive, but I also experienced a rush of nostalgia remembering where different classrooms were when I attended school there, as well as making of note of how the classrooms where my parents taught during their years at the middle school look today.

In addition to welcoming North Adams educators and students back to school I also spent some time visiting with new students and families during move-in day at [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts \(MCLA\)](#). It was wonderful to see the excitement – and yes, maybe a little bit of nervousness – on the part of the students, and the bittersweet expressions of family members who clearly were looking forward to a new chapter in their students' lives, but who also were starting to miss them.

Finally, I had the chance during the first few days of the school year to visit all the North Adams Public Schools as well as McCann Tech. What struck me was different ways that students approach the start of the year, from excitement, to uncertainty, to – in a very few cases – reluctance. Our teachers, administrators, and school staff have the challenging task of serving and empowering all learners. That takes skill and creativity, and I offer my sincere thanks and admiration to everyone involved in educating our students. Here's to a great year!

Tom Bernard

Lieutenant Governor Polito visits North Adams, MCLA



Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito visited North Adams on Thursday, August 30. During her visit to the city she toured the MCLA campus, and met with MCLA President Birge, Senator Hinds, and Mayor Bernard to discuss education, economic development, housing, and public safety, among other topics.

While she was in the northern Berkshires the Lieutenant Governor also participated in the ribbon cutting for the [Hoosac Valley Service](#) track extension in Adams. The project, funded in part by the Commonwealth's Massworks infrastructure program, has helped to create a welcoming station and platform on the Adams end of the Berkshire Scenic Railway line between Adams and North Adams. As noted during the celebration, this project will not be fully complete until there is a comparable platform to welcome Berkshire Scenic travelers and visitors on the North Adams end of the route.

City receives \$8,800 from state Recycling Dividends Program (RDP)



The City of North Adams recently was awarded a grant of \$8,800 from the Commonwealth's [Recycling Dividends Program](#) (RDP). Overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the RDP "provides payments to qualifying municipalities that have implemented specific waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and policies." The city will use the RDP funds to create a swap shed to enable transfer station users to drop off useable items and take home items left by others, as well as to develop other services at the transfer station to promote recycling.

In other recycling news, the city will hold a household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, September 29, in the skating rink parking lot. In addition, the [Northern Berkshire United Way](#) is sponsoring a community shredding day on Saturday, October 13, in the parking lot next to Haskins School.

***REMINDER: City Hall summer hours ended Friday, August 31.
City Hall offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.***

City adds first hybrid car to vehicle fleet



In August the city took delivery of a new Hyundai Ionic hybrid. This is the first hybrid vehicle in the city fleet. It will replace one of the vehicles used by the inspection services department, and also may from time to time be used by city staff who travel out of North Adams for meetings or training.

The car was purchased as part of a fleet replacement plan approved by the North Adams City Council earlier this summer.

Baseball in the Berkshires museum celebrates the 40th anniversary of Drury Baseball's milestone season



In 1977 the Drury High School Blue Devils baseball team won the Massachusetts state championship. In that year, the team also traveled to Taiwan as part of an international baseball exchange program.

On Sunday, August 26, the Baseball in the Berkshires museum in Lanesboro commemorated the 40th anniversary of Drury's championship season and "The Trip of a Lifetime" by hosting a reception and celebration for players, coaches, families, and community members.

North Adams Motorama celebrates all things motorized



On Sunday, August 26 downtown North Adams was filled with hundreds of classic and contemporary vehicles, and thousands of car enthusiasts for the biggest Motorama yet.

Building on the downtown program that has become a late summer staple in North Adams, this year's Motorama added a new event on Saturday, August 25, a "cruise-in" concert at the Noel Field complex that was headlined by Whiskey Treaty Roadshow.

Also present for this year's Motorama was the team from NESN's *Cruisin' New England* program which will feature North Adams on an upcoming show.

Community meeting explores proposed zoning changes



Over the past several months a working group of staff from the offices of the assessor, community development, inspection services, and the mayor have been working with a representative from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) to review and update the city's zoning map and use tables. Following several meetings of this group, the city hosted a public meeting on August 21 to collect community input on these proposed updates.

The updated map and tables will be sent to the Planning Board and City Council for further review and additional public input.

City seeks new board and commissions members

The City currently has vacancies on several boards and commissions, including

- Commission on Disabilities (6 vacancies)
- Conservation Commission (1 vacancy)
- Council on Aging (4 vacancies)
- Human Services Commission (1 vacancy)
- The MASS MoCA Commission (3 vacancies)
- Tree Commission (3 vacancies)

Anyone interested in serving on one of these commissions should send a brief statement of interest and any questions to mells@northadams-ma.gov.

Upcoming Events

- [Fall Foliage Parade](#), Sunday, September, 30
- Farmers' Market, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. through October 20, St. Anthony's Parking Lot
- Downtown Bike Around, Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. through September 20, meet at St. Anthony's Parking Lot

Contact Information

Mayor's Office
City Hall
10 Main Street
North Adams, MA 01247

(413) 662-3001 x 3001; mayorbernard@northadams-ma.gov



[Mayor Tom Bernard](#)

[@MayorBernardNA](#)