

IMPACT REPORT 2025

Our Mission

The Newton Beacon promotes informed and engaged residents, a stronger and more connected community, and accountability from leaders and institutions through inclusive, professional reporting that adheres to the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

“As a parent of NPS students and member of the community, it is such a gift to have quality news coverage of local events. There is a lot happening in Newton and I don’t know how I would stay up to date without the Newton Beacon.”

—Matt Curley

Comprehensive, Professional Local News Coverage

The Beacon published **612 stories** about Newton in 2025.

In our third year of providing trustworthy, in-depth reporting on Newton we continued to expand our coverage, and this year we saw a more than 30% increase in our stories viewed by readers.

Quality is central to our mission: the Beacon adheres to the highest standards of journalistic integrity. Our reporting is always independent and nonpartisan.

Below is a breakdown of the number of stories by topic that we ran this year:

102

Local Issues*

54

Local Businesses

73

Community News & Events

40

Schools

77

History & Culture

25

High School Sports

95

Local Elections

65

Government & Elected Officials

81

Features

**Includes housing, zoning, climate action, public safety, transportation and infrastructure*

Decide '25 Election Guide

With 18 candidates in contested races, voters had a lot to sort out in order to cast informed votes. The Beacon published in-depth interviews with each contested candidate as well as their responses to a comprehensive list of questions about local issues, including housing, climate action, public safety, schools and the city budget. Our guide was consulted by readers more than 13,000 times.

Innovation

In our third year covering local news in Newton, we focused on adding content and features you told us you want to see.

We increased the number of community voices in our opinion section, publishing 18 guest opinion columns and 52 letters to the editor.

We added coverage of sports at Newton North and Newton South, allowing the entire community to share the excitement of our athletes' achievements.

We continued our content-sharing partnership with Boston College's The Heights, and we entered into a new partnership with Boston University Department of Journalism.



Community & Connection

The Beacon worked hard all year long to make it easy for you to **follow local issues** and **be informed about local news!**

Just a sampling of the stories we covered in 2025:

School Enrollment Decline
Turtle Lane Playhouse
Winter Parking Ban
Newton Centre Plaza
West Newton Cinema
Walk, Roll, Bike Plan
Nonantum Street Lines
Riverside Development
NPS Budget Crisis
Proposed Zoning Changes
Cooper Center
Anonymous PACs
Ward/Underwood Hearing
Anti-Semitism Commission
Newton North &
Newton South Sports
Northland Development
New Police Chief
Bulloughs Pond Dam

Informed residents

- vote in larger numbers and show up more for meetings and events
- are more connected to their neighbors—a shared understanding of what's happening locally reduces polarization

A high-quality local news outlet is the glue that holds a community together.



The Beacon Editorial Staff

Bryan McGonigle is the Beacon's editor and lead reporter and has become well known to the community in his two and a half years reporting on everything-everywhere-all-the-time in Newton. Bryan manages an experienced team of 9 freelance journalists, including frequent contributors Greta Gaffin and Burt Granofsky.