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Subject: Competing tonight: another debate & another NewCAL comment opportunity

Date: Thu, Oct 24, 2019 12:39 pm

Watch my Ward 3 Councilor debate (and more) on YouTube!



Ward 3 Councilor debate - October 20 at NNHS

The first set of debates sponsored jointly by the four Neighborhood Area Councils (for contested races in Wards 1-4) are viewable at the links below.

[Ciccone Ward 1](#)

[Ward 4 SC](#)

[Ward 2](#)

[Ward 2 At Large](#)

[Ward 3](#)

[Ward 3 At Large](#)

Please share my debate with anyone you know in Ward 3 (roughly equivalent to West Newton) who may be undecided (or who may not even be planning to vote), and encourage them to pass it on!

NOTE: You can watch the debates in contested races for Wards 5-8 in person this Sunday, October 27, 2-5pm at roughly half-hour intervals:

LOCATION: Zervas Elementary School, 30 Beethoven Ave., Waban

Moderated by Andy Levin

- Ward 5 Councilor: Rena Getz, Bill Humphrey, and Kathy Winters
- Ward 5 Councilor-at-Large: Deborah J. Crossley*, Andreae Downs*, and Paul E. Coletti
- Ward 6 Councilor: Brenda Noel* and Lisa Gordon
- Ward 6 Councilor-at-Large: Victoria L. Danberg*, Greg Schwartz*, and Alicia G. Bowman

Moderated by Ken Parker

- Ward 5 School Committee: Lev Agranovich and Emily R. Prenner
- Ward 6 School Committee: Ruth E. Goldman* and Galina N. Rosenblit

* incumbent

Ward 3 Democratic Committee hosts W3 city councilor debates, 6:30pm tonight at Newton Senior Center

These debates for Councilor at Large (6:30pm) and Ward 3 Councilor (7:30pm), at the Senior Center, 345 Walnut St, Newtonville, are run by the Ward 3 Democratic Committee, but all are welcome, even an "Unenrolled" (Independent) like me.

A nice feature of these debates is a half hour in each set aside for questions directly from the audience, so this is your chance, if a topic you care about hasn't been addressed! [Agenda here](#).

Competing event: NewCAL Community Meeting, 7pm at Ed Center (100 Walnut St)

This is really unfortunate, because I would like to be attending this NewCAL Community meeting as I have the others. And I will be attending whatever is still going on after my debate finishes at 8:30.

But you, the public, have the luxury of choosing -- or attending some of each. I am told that tonight's NewCAL meeting will dispense with the PowerPoint

presentation and go straight to public comments. And the city will, I hope, continue its recent practice of livestreaming the meeting and posting the video later on the [NewCAL webpage](#).

Is NewCAL location now either/or?



A couple of quick observations from events this week:

First, in her Monday, October 21 address to the City Council, presenting the Long-Range Financial Forecast & Five-Year Financial Plan, and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Mayor Fuller noted that the Newton Center Triangle was being considered as an alternative to Albemarle as a site for NewCAL. **She did not mention that any other sites were being considered.** Since there are likely to be many reasons the Triangle would not be any more feasible than it was when it was in the longer list, notably that undergrounding the parking would be very expensive, I think it's fair to conclude that Albemarle is not off the table. If you do not want to see NewCAL on parkland, it's important to let the members of the Parks & Recreation Commission know, because they have the power to eliminate Albemarle or any park site from consideration. (At their regular monthly meeting this week, NewCAL was only mentioned in passing. The Park & Rec Commission's public hearing date is not yet posted.)

Second, I listened to audio of the Real Property Reuse Committee's October 22 meeting (available [here](#)). It was devoted to [approving members](#) of a Joint Advisory Planning Group (JAPG) for whether to purchase, and what to do with, the West Newton Armory. All of the proposed members seem very well-qualified, but I was struck that their overwhelming interest and experience

seemed to be in affordable housing, although some said if housing was not feasible they would be open to other uses.



Since many people, including me, would like to see the Armory considered as a location for at least a portion of an expanded Senior Center (e.g. Senior Center West), I am a bit concerned that composition of the JAPG may have the effect of eliminating serious consideration of the Armory for that purpose, and narrow the non-park options for NewCAL.

There will be a public hearing about the Armory before the JAPG begins its deliberations, but that date is not known yet either.



12 days to Election Day, November 5

It's not too late to get at sign, be added to my supporters list (which I'll be adding to my website), or help out by distributing my postcards or making phone calls!

Please reply if you'd like to help in any way, and **please forward this email** to anyone you know in Ward 3, and tell them I need their vote on November 5. Thank you!

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