

## Storm Update



Dear Residents,

Another week, and, unfortunately, another storm.

As our Director of Streets Shane Mark just said, “conditions are gnarly.”

I’m writing to you from the City’s Emergency Operations Center, a place I’ve become all too familiar with over the past 12 days. And I hear more snow is in next Wednesday’s forecast.

Today’s storm is expected to last at least until about 9 p.m. tonight, and drop up to 18 inches of snow on us.

- We’re keeping the Snow Emergency in place until 7 a.m. tomorrow morning. So, no cars on the street or in the municipal lots until the morning. That allows us to plow.
- The trash and recycling schedule is on for Wednesday, but remember everyone except the Monday route is on a one-day delay.
- The Newton Public Schools and the Senior Center will be closed on Wednesday.
- City Hall and the Library will be open at the usual time.
- For updates, check our website at [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov), or sign-up for the emergency alert Code Red robocalls to receive a call. To sign-up to receive robocalls, go to the City website at [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov) and look for the “Sign Up For Emergency Alerts” icon. I promise that we don’t use robocalls often. (We realize that the Code Red system just sent out an OLD robocall from March 13<sup>th</sup> last year. We’re figuring out right now why that happened.)

Today’s storm comes on the heels of 23 weather events this winter, including 54 inches of snow. The ice and wind damage over the past two weeks has downed more than 91 entire trees, and damaged at least 1,000 more.

All this snow, ice and wind comes with a price, one I’m all too aware of as we sit down with our department heads to determine the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Each inch of snow costs roughly \$100,000 to clear. As I think about the budget, and translating our priorities into projects, I’m keenly aware that each inch of snow is one less thing we can include as a one-time initiative in next year’s plan.

Most distressing is the two-alarm fire that just happened on Stratford Road. The occupants are safe, thank goodness, but I’m still concerned for the safety of the firefighters, especially in these weather conditions. We know one firefighter went to Newton Wellesley Hospital but is in good condition.

There is plenty going on in our City that doesn’t have anything to do with the weather:

### Student Walk-Out

I’m so proud of the high school students here in Newton who took the initiative to join the national walk-out to end gun violence. The event had been scheduled for tomorrow morning, but with school cancelled, it has been rescheduled for Thursday.

I'm joining the students at NSHS while Superintendent Fleishman will be at NNHS.

### Need Some Humor?

Join me at Dunn Gaherin's in Newton Upper Falls on Friday morning, March 16, at 8:30 a.m. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Newton Political Paddy's Day Breakfast. I'll be very funny. Seriously. (At least I'll try. I can use the mis-launch of this evening's robocall for some good material!)

### Newton Power Choice

We have an exciting and important environmental initiative. This municipal electricity aggregation plan will allow us to choose an energy supplier, give our residents and businesses options, stabilize prices, and increase the amount of green and clean renewable energy. It's also meant to try and lower energy costs.

The next information session is scheduled for Thursday night, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. with the Nonantum Neighborhood Association, at 111 JFK Circle, off Green Street.

A full schedule, as well as more information about the plan can be found online at [www.newtonpowerchoice.com](http://www.newtonpowerchoice.com).

### Shoveling

I know we'll all be frustrated tonight as our plow drivers get our roads cleared from curb to curb, pushing some snow back into driveways that took a lot of hard work to shovel out.

It doesn't make it any easier for you looking out later tonight and seeing your hard work erased, but we do curb-to-curb plowing at the very end of the storm for some important reasons. We need to make sure there's room for two-way traffic and emergency vehicles to pass, and to allow water to flow into the storm drains that are right next to the curbs as the snow melts.

Finally, I want to end with something that I think represents what our good City is all about.

I got an email earlier today from a resident in Newton Upper Falls. He wanted to let me know the neighbors on Harrison Street are all chipping in to shovel the sidewalks and driveways of their neighbors who are away this week. Here's a photo of them braving the elements earlier this afternoon. Bravo!

Warmly,

Ruthanne



### Is your power out?

We have been fortunate so far in this storm with fewer power outages than in the last storm. Just a quick reminder that reporting your power outages directly to Eversource is important. You may call Eversource at 1-800-592-2000 or log your outage online at:

<https://www.eversource.com/CustomerCare/ReportOutage/Outage/OutageLogin>

Please don't call 911 to report power outages.

