

Monday, Feb. 1, 2021

Mayor's Update

Heavy, wet snow is expected to start falling in Newton around noon today and continue through the night and into tomorrow. The most current forecast shows the heaviest snow starting to fall today around 3:00 p.m. with a final accumulation of between 8 and 12 inches. That snow total could increase if temperatures remain below freezing after midnight, instead of rising into the high 30s and turning the light snow into light rain which is the current forecast.



Along with the snow, strong wind gusts are also forecast for later tonight and into tomorrow. The strong winds could cause falling limbs and power outages. If your power goes out, report it directly to Eversource [here](#), or call 877-659-6326. Stay away from all downed power lines, and if you see downed wires, call 911.

DPW crews pretreated the roads with brine (you may notice the pavement tinted white) to help prevent icing, and are ready to begin salting, sanding and/or clearing snow as soon as it starts accumulating today. Clearly, it will take quite a lot of time to get roads, sidewalks and parking lots cleared.

Emergency Parking Ban and Closures

A snow Emergency Parking Ban will begin at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, Monday, February 1. No cars can be parked on the street or in municipal parking lots to allow our DPW crews and contractors to plow effectively; cars may be towed. We will post on the City website at newtonma.gov when the ban will be lifted. As the forecast is still quite uncertain, we haven't made that decision yet.

Schools are closing early today to make sure the buses are off the roads when the heaviest snow is expected to start falling. The complete schedule can be found at the NPS website [here](#).

City Hall will close today at 2:30 p.m. Posted Zoom government meetings will be held as scheduled.

The Newton Free Library will close at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

The Senior Center will continue to be closed (as it has been because of COVID-19).

The Resource Recovery Center at Rumford Avenue will close at noon today.

The Grab and Go meals program will run as scheduled today.

We will be making decisions about potential closures tomorrow at approximately 6:00 p.m. tonight. Updated information will be posted on the City website at newtonma.gov.

Trash/Recycling Delays

Trash and recycling pick-up will be delayed for many of us. Today's Monday route will be collected until noon today. Drivers will return to Newton tomorrow morning to complete the Monday route and begin collecting the Tuesday route. Some of Tuesday's route will be completed on Wednesday and Wednesday's route will be started – and so on as the week continues. Some of Friday's route will be completed on Saturday morning. You should put your trash and recycling out to be collected on your regularly scheduled day. If it is not collected on your scheduled day, it will be collected the next day.

Sidewalk Shoveling

Sidewalk snow shoveling rules are in effect.

Residential property owners need to clear the sidewalk in front of their property within 24 hours of a storm's end (the timeline can be extended if conditions warrant – information will be posted at newtonma.gov). We will also put on the City website the official time that the storm ends so that you know when the 24 hour period for clearing your sidewalk begins.

Property owners in business and commercial districts, or of residential buildings with four or more units, must have the sidewalk in front of their property cleared within 12 hours of a storm's end.

Want to report an unshoveled sidewalk? Use the 311 system or call customer service at 311 or 617-796-1000. Remember, businesses have 12 hours to clear their sidewalk and residential property owners have 24 hours after the snow stops falling.

Contractors are responsible for making sure the snow they clear from parking lots or private property is not pushed onto a sidewalk or into the street. If you see a City Contractor do this, please call 311 and report it so it can be cleared. If you witness a private contractor pushing snow onto a sidewalk or into the street, please call the police on their non-emergency number which is 617-796-2100. The contractor can be fined.

Property owners will receive one warning every 365 days before receiving a fine if their sidewalk is left uncleared and is reported into the City's 311 system. City employees will respond to the called-in complaints, take a photo of the violation, and issue a warning or fines. Fines are \$50 and will be repeated every 24 hours until the sidewalk is cleared.

Our City plows will be making several passes along streets as the snow falls to make sure roads at first are passable, and then widening them from the center toward the curb or the edge of pavement to allow safe two-way traffic. As we all know, this causes the extremely frustrating situation of seeing a plow push snow back into the driveway or sidewalk you've just shoveled. It's happened to me and I

understand, it's a pain. I also know that if DPW doesn't do it this way, we'll be left with roads that are dangerous for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Need Help?

If you need assistance during the storm, please call Customer Service at 617-796-1000. Please leave a message on this line if no one is available to answer and someone will call you back. You can also use the 311 app on your smart phone or computer.

As always, in an emergency, call 911 immediately.

As we've been for months, let's continue to look out for our neighbors, lend a hand if we can, and consider shoveling out a neighbor or checking in on someone who may be alone.

Warmly,

Ruthanne



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by rfuller@newtonma.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!