

Friday, Jan. 28, 2022

Mayor's Update

Nor'easter On the Way

This one could be a doozy.

Newton is likely to get 2+ feet of snow (and our forecast shows a 20% possibility of more).

Snow is expected to begin sometime early in the morning on Saturday. The blizzard conditions extend for most of the daylight hours tapering off in the evening between 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. During the height of the storm mid-day on Saturday, we expect severe blizzard conditions, with potentially 2-4 inches of snow falling per hour, up to 50 mph wind gusts and thundersnow.

Given the volume of the snow and the high winds extending into Sunday causing drifting snow, our cleanup operation will continue not only on Sunday but into the workweek as well.

Please, stay off the roads during the blizzard conditions on Saturday as well as into Sunday as the plowing continues. Travel will be treacherous on Saturday.

Snow Emergency Parking Ban and Closures

A Snow Emergency Parking Ban will go into effect at 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, Saturday, January 29. No cars can be parked on the street, in municipal parking lots, or school parking lots (including under solar canopies) to allow our DPW crews and contractors to plow effectively. If left on the street or in these parking lots, cars will be towed (and they will be towed starting right after 6:00 a.m. before the worst of the blizzard conditions). (Remember, also, that our winter parking ban is in place so no cars can be on the street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.)

We will post on the City website at newtonma.gov when the snow emergency parking ban will be lifted but we expect it to stay in place overnight on Saturday.

- The Newton Free Library will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.
- The Jackson Homestead and Museum will be closed this weekend.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture programming will be cancelled on Saturday and Sunday, and community centers will be closed.
- NewMo will not operate on Saturday or Sunday.
- The Resource Recovery Center at Rumford Avenue will be closed on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday.
- All activities in the Newton Public School buildings are cancelled for this weekend.

Sidewalk Shoveling

With the amount of snow predicted, our DPW Commissioner expects to extend the amount of time people have to shovel their sidewalks.

Normally, residential property owners need to clear the sidewalk in front of their property within 24 hours of a storm's end. 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.

The official "end" of the storm will be posted on the City's website at newtonma.gov, as well as updates about the timeline for shoveling.

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 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.

Handy Phone Numbers

The City will be opening our Emergency Operation Center Saturday morning at 5:00 a.m. If you need assistance, please call us at 617-796-1000 or by dialing 311.

As always, in an emergency, call 911 immediately.

If you lose power, please report it to Eversource immediately at 1-800-592-2000.

Again, please stay home, stay safe, and check on your neighbors.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Is running the Boston Marathon on your bucket list? You're in luck! Each year, the City of Newton is allocated 40 invitational bibs which we award to locally based charities and runners. We traditionally receive more requests for runner bibs than we can accommodate. This year, we have three unassigned bibs available for runners. If you are interested in running the 126th Boston Marathon on Monday, April 18, 2022 for a Newton charitable organization, please send an email to Amalia Timbers at atimbers@newtonma.gov by Sunday, January 30, 2022. All entries will be included in a lottery this Monday, January 31, 2022. The three winners will be paired with a charity and notified on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Good luck!



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

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