

MAYOR'S UPDATE
February 26, 2024
Mayor Sean R. Reardon

State of the City/2nd Annual Public and Community Service Awards:

The State of the City Address will take place here at City Hall on Wednesday February 28th at 7pm. State of the City is a great opportunity to highlight the successes of the past year and look ahead at what's to come. The 2nd Annual Public and Community Service Awards will also be taking place the same night. These awards were a highlight last year recognizing talented individuals and businesses giving back to their community in a variety of ways. I want to thank my staff particularly Christine Jackson and Andrew Levine for all their hard work putting this event together.

Municipal Empowerment Act:

Tomorrow I will be headed into the State House to testify in support of the Outdoor Dining Provision of the Municipal Empowerment Act before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Outdoor dining has been a huge success here in Newburyport and other communities could benefit from lessons learned. I am advocating for the legislature to approve the Municipal Empowerment Act and will be closely watching its progress on Beacon Hill.

Whittier Update:

The first Whittier Regional Task Force meeting is set for Wednesday March 6th here at City Hall. The make up of the task force will be two members from each of the 11 communities that are members of the Whittier Regional School District. The mayor or town manager will be one of the members and a city councilor or select board member will be the other. I want to thank Ward 4 Councilor Ben Harman for agreeing to serve on this Task Force. The Regional Agreement will be the first agenda item discussed during this meeting.

MeVa Public Meeting:

A public meeting with MeVa to discuss local bus routes will take place on Thursday of this week, February 29th in City Hall Auditorium at 5pm. MeVa will be discussing possible changes to routes in the city and also will be taking questions and feedback from the public. MeVa has continued to be a great partner with the City and is always looking to improve its service.

Rec Center at 59 Low Street:

The City Council's Community Services Committee will discuss the proposed Rec Center at 59 Low Street on March 4th. We believe we have put forth a reasonable plan for the recreation center that all residents of Newburyport will enjoy for years to come. I want to thank EGA architects, Kim Turner and Andi Egmont as well as the rest of the team for all the work put into this plan. Thanks also go to Kim for putting together a comprehensive document for the Council that has all the information on the process so far to build the Center at 59 Low Street. We continue to look for funding opportunities for this project and hope to move this project forward.

Bartlet Mall Ramp

I'd like to make you aware of some construction occurring at the Bartlet Mall this week. When the new universally-accessible playground was installed, two short flights of granite stairs that were located immediately behind the northwest corner playground were removed in order to provide temporary construction access before the eventual re-installation of the historical ramp. Now that the playground

is nearing completion, and the Frog Pond restoration project is on pause, the ramp is being installed to provide park users with an accessible route to Auburn Street. The Newburyport Commission on Disabilities (NCOD), the Massachusetts Architectural Accessibility Board (MAAB), and Conservation Commission have all approved of the installation of a ramp. The ramp will be comprised of stabilized crushed stone until the full Frog Pond restoration project is completed, when it will be replaced with Flexipave.

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