

MAYOR'S UPDATE
March 13, 2023
Mayor Sean R. Reardon

Nor'easter Coming:

Winter is trying to hang on here in the Northeast. A storm is coming in tomorrow that will bring high winds, high tides and a mix of precipitation during the work day tomorrow. We will keep you updated on any developments. A parking ban will be in effect starting at 12pm tomorrow, Tuesday. I know this is difficult during the day but we are urging residents to stay off the road once the snow begins.

DPS Director and Fire Chief Searches:

The Collins Center of UMass Boston is still coordinating the search for our next DPS Director. We have received four resumes so far and the search is scheduled to close March 17th. The search for our next fire chief has 4 applicants currently and that search will close on 3/20. The Fire Chief Screening Committee will then rank the resumes and set up first round interviews.

Plum Island Dredge:

Plum Island is bracing for another storm. We are checking in on residents. The extension of the US Army Corps of Engineers dredge project was granted until 4/30 and Norfolk Dredging out of Virginia has been secured as the subcontractor. This is a newer and larger dredge than was previously here. The hope is to have the dredge up and running by the beginning of April. 90% of the sand estimated for this project is still needed to be placed at Reservation Terrace.

Schools:

The School Committee was presented the aspirational budget from each school at their last meeting on Monday March 6th. There are still three more budget meetings that will take place before the vote in late April. The district is also looking into a tuition program where city employees that live outside of the city could have their children attend Newburyport Schools. We are still gathering information at this time and this would fall outside of school choice.

Resiliency Committee:

The Newburyport Resiliency Committee is applying for a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) action grant to fund climate resilience related projects by non-profits, schools, and service organizations within the Newburyport community. The Committee is hoping to receive a diverse range of proposed projects, including climate-related art exhibits or performances, student or community educational projects, watershed protection, urban tree canopy, heat emergency planning, and many more. The deadline to apply is April 3rd so check out the Resiliency Committee's webpage on the city's website for more information.

Newburyport Youth Services

Registration for summer recreation programs opens at 6pm on Wednesday, March 15th. NYS has programs for ages infant through 18. Financial aid is available, and information for all programs can be found on the online registration site.

Facilities Report

In your packet tonight is the 2022 Municipal Buildings Report, which is required by a Council Ordinance passed in fall 2021 and that we are presenting for the first time this year. Thank you to everyone who worked to put this together, including Molly Ettenborough, Steve Bergholm, Julie Spurr Knight, Mike Bartlett, and more. This first iteration is a working document, and we look forward to collaborating to determine how best to present this information on energy and utility use at our different city buildings.

NBPT Chamber Restaurant Week

The Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce's Restaurant Week started yesterday. Over 15 eating establishments in the area are taking part each with a special menu for the event. Check out the chamber website for more information.

Forever Green Campaign:

Speaking of the Chamber, the Forever Green Campaign also launched last week and runs until Earth Day April 22nd. Forever Green Newburyport is an annual collaborative program between the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the City of Newburyport to support environmental education, awareness and eco-tourism. There are many events planned and you can find them on the Newburyport Chamber and City websites.

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