

City of  
Fitchburg



Department of  
Public Works

**301 Broad Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Phone: 978-829-1910**

DPW Weekly Update June 28 - July 12, 2019

Dear Mayor, Councilors, and Colleagues:

This report covers the period of the past two weeks. DPW and the Recreation Department worked closely with the Fitchburg Civic Days Committee and the Longsjo Foundation to make the annual events a success. DPW crews prepared for the festivities by mowing and landscaping the common, cleaning up Main Street, repainting fire hydrants, patching potholes along the Longsjo course, and by setting up the parade route. Recreation Department helped with the logistics of setting up vendors and events.

During the block party, 13 Recreation Department staff oversaw and supported the children's activities while approximately 15 DPW staff helped with trash pick-up and assisted FPD with traffic control by using trucks as road blocks. DPW crews worked until 1:00 AM on Thursday morning to clean up after the block party and returned at 4:30 AM to move the cannon to Rollstone Hill. During July 4<sup>th</sup>, approximately 15 DPW staff members worked a full day starting at 7:00 AM to set up cones and barriers for the parade route, move the bleachers, and to clean up after the parade. Sunday was another full day of work for about 15 DPW staff who helped set up the Longsjo Race course and clean up afterwards.

In addition to the extra work required during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and Sunday activities, DPW Streets staff worked the rest of the week to complete their daily duties.

As always, the Department of Public Works is at your service and we would be happy to answer any of your questions and address any of your comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicolas H. Bosonetto, PE  
Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer

## Roadways

During the two week period approximately 1,200 potholes<sup>1</sup> were filled at various locations, including the following:

- Stickney Road
- Sheldon Road
- Summer Street
- Main Street
- Boulder Drive
- Wood Street
- Cushing Street
- Highland Avenue
- Williams Road
- Spring Street
- Gage Street
- Pierce Avenue
- Westminster Hill Road
- John Fitch Highway
- Chester Street

Sink holes were repaired and paved on Westminster Street and Lunenburg Street. Catch basins were repaired and paved at Bemis Road and Connors Street. Manholes were paved on St. Peter Street, Stickney Road and Edlee Street. Crosswalks and stop bars were painted on Mechanic Street, River Street, and Westminster Street.

Brush cutting was performed at various locations including:

- Roper Road
- Industrial Road
- Game-on Way
- Simonds Street
- Mount Globe Street
- Goodwin Street
- Blaise Court
- Jackson Avenue
- Hardy Avenue
- Upham Street
- Lawrence Street
- Bernard Street

Reclamation and repaving of a 1,700-foot section of Scott Road/Richardson Road from Ashby State Road (Rt 31) to Saima Park was completed. Neighboring properties affected by the construction were restored, driveway aprons were repaved, yards were loamed and seeded, and erosion control stone was added. PJ Albert is the contractor and the total cost will be approximately \$130,000 paid from the Chapter 90 (state) funds.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on average pothole size of 3.5 inches depth and 1.5 foot wide by 1.5 foot long (volume of 0.66 cubic feet or 0.02 cubic yards)

## Parks & Recreation

The annual Summer Playground Program started on July 8. The program runs Monday-Friday through August 23 and will include three field trips. Registration will remain open throughout the summer to accommodate any residents who may need to alter their summer camp plans. Residents should contact the Recreation Department directly to register.

Ryan C. Joubert Memorial Skate Clinic Session 1 started July 9. Session 2 online registration has closed, but residents can still register in person on Monday. Registration for the 3rd and final session closes on Friday July 19 at midnight.

Swim Lessons began on Monday July 8. Sessions are 30 minutes long and are conducted Monday through Friday at the J. Robert Crowley Swimming Complex. We accept learners of all ages. Registration is available online for those interested in joining the next session.

Concerts on the Common began on July 10 with The Peacheaters. Estimated attendance 200 people. Next concert is July 17, 2019 hosting the Goat Ropers.

Friday Night Movie Series begins July 12 at Nikitas Field. This week's movie is Captain Marvel. Next week's movie is Ralph Breaks the Internet.

Friends of Coggs Hall Park hosted annual volunteer thank you cookout starting at 2:00 PM on July 14 at Coggs Hall Park.

Over 223 participants are registered so far for upcoming recreation programs:

Summer Playground Program.....	180 registered
Joubert Free Skate Clinic (7/12).....	20 registered
Joubert Free Skate Clinic (7/15).....	15 registered
Swim Lessons (7/15) .....	8 registered

DPW crews continued to maintain and repair the recreation infrastructure as follows:

- Coolidge Park - installation of new fence, repairs to the playground mats, and repairs to the swimming pool.
- Grass was cut and trash picked up at the various parks.
- Assisted in the construction of the Rollstone Hill Trail.
- Removed felled tree blocking trail at Coggs Hall Park.



*Figure 1- Fallen Tree at Coggs Hall Park*

## Cemeteries

The cemeteries staff received help from Boy Scout Troop #41 during this past week. The Scouts helped pick up flags left over from the holidays and also replace worn flags from the graves of veterans that have permanent flag holders. The list of veterans interred in Sections 1 and 2 of the Forest Hill Cemetery continue to be updated and applications for additional veteran markers were made to Washington D.C. An additional 26 permanent veteran flag holders were added to sections 1 and 2.

Flat monuments were uncovered and cleaned in Sections 1 and 2 of the Forest Hill Cemetery. Wash outs and overturned stones were fixed at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

The cemeteries staff completed the following work:

Interments.....	3
Up righted monuments .....	6
Uncovered flat monuments.....	11
Monument foundation marking.....	1
Catch basin repair.....	1
Filled sink holes .....	2
Trimmed Trees.....	10
Trimmed shrubs .....	34
Meeting with Families .....	3
Payments - invoiced/processed.....	16
Family Genealogy.....	1



Figure 2 - Boy Scout Troop #41

Routine maintenance continued on all cemeteries by mowing, weeding and cleaning the grounds.

## Waste Water

A heavy-rain event on July 6 caused approximately 129,000 gallons of combined flow to bypass the Secondary Treatment System at the east plant. This discharge received preliminary treatment and disinfection prior to entering the Nashua River. Additionally there were seven combined sewer overflows (CSOs) along the collection system. Completion of the combined sewer separation project will reduce the frequency and volumes of these types of releases.

DPW crews located and raised five buried manholes at:

- 100 Edlee Street (sewer),
- 107 Stickney Road (sewer),
- 107 Stickney Road (drain),
- 597 Ashburnham Street (sewer),
- At the end of St. Peter Street off of Belmont Street. (sewer)

Crews responded to sewer overflow on #133 Water Street. Approximately 50 gallons spilled out of sewer manhole into a nearby catch basin. DPW crews cleared water bottles, rocks, and sand debris from sewer. Previous repairs-up stream may have left some debris in pipe, and other debris from combined sewer/stormwater flow in pipe may have caused blockage. This combined system will be separated next year and pipe will be replaced or abandoned.

**Water**

The Water Division continued its work providing safe drinking water for the city by maintaining and operating the Regional and Falulah Walter Filtration Plants and their associated dams, reservoirs and watersheds. Also maintained the water distribution network including piping, pump stations, valves, water towers and meters.

Water Division personnel responded to to 718 Main Street (City Hall project) after report of water bubbling from the ground. The contractor had inadvertently pulled an abandoned 1-inch corporation out of the 4-inch water main causing a water leak. The contractor, with the assistance of DPW crews installed a 4-inch wraparound to fix the break. Contractor had not called to have water main/service marked out.

In addition to routine work the Water Division crews completed the following work:

Emergency DigSafe Markouts.....	4
DigSafe Markouts .....	18
Record Plan Updates .....	15
Final Readings .....	17
Meter Replacements .....	17
New Hydrants Installed.....	5
Hydrants Repainted .....	20
Backflow Preventers Tested .....	50

Routine flushing of the High System in the Westminster Hill Road area continued this week.

**Engineering**

The Engineering Division reviewed candidate streets for pavement preservation and prepared documents for contractors to perform the work. GIS mapping layers were updated to track pavement condition and pavement work throughout the city. Work on crack-sealing and micro-surfacing streets is scheduled for the rest of the summer.

Engineering staff issued the following permits and performed the following inspections:

Dig-Safe requests.....	6
Dumpster Permits .....	1
Parcel Updates.....	6
Sewer/Drain Inspections.....	6
Planning Reviews.....	3

Engineering continued to support the City Hall reconstruction project by inspecting installation of new sewer main and manhole installation in Wood Place and on site. Supported the Mill Street activation project by marking out the Mill Street right-of-way limits for Community Development. An easement plan and legal description were created for a Comcast conduit between 885 and 860 Fisher Road.

**Administration**

The Business Manager attended Finance Committee meeting to answer questions regarding one grant and a gift. Committee voted unanimously to accept both.

- \$12,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Central MA for the Rollstone Hill Trail project. The check has been received and coordination with the Greenway Committee is continuing.
- \$265,688 gift from UNITIL for a contribution of paving work necessary in areas where gas line replacements/repairs will require re-paving.

The following invoices were researched and processed for payment:

Streets/ Admin/ Engineering..... 34 invoices paid totaling \$52,200  
Wastewater ..... 74 invoices paid totaling \$695,185