



City of Norway

March 2019

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Mayor Candy Brew Council Members: Lee Meneghini, Scott Popp, Bret Kraemer, & Jeremy Oja



It has been an unusual winter with the amount of snow that we've experienced. We are currently at 60 inches but still not at record levels. Just to put this in perspective, with records from the Iron Mountain-Kingsford WWTP we had 130 inches in 1938-39, and more recently 109 inches the winter of 1995-96. We really appreciate everyone's patience as we battle the elements and know that it has become extremely difficult to see around intersections with the height of the snowbanks. With each new snowfall it becomes harder and harder to get the snow off the streets as there's no place for the snow to go. Unfortunately we are not getting any breaks as it seems like every other day a new system sweeps through the area dropping 6 to 10 inches. With that being said our first priority is to get the snow off the streets. Once we do that we have to attack the snowbanks and physically remove the snow. We have to address intersections first especially along US2. We are getting calls from all over town so again we appreciate your patience and willingness to work with us.

Snow Management FAQ's

Again we appreciate everyone's patience as the city crews try and deal with heavy snow this winter. Here are some questions and answers when dealing with the snow:

- When will the city remove snowbanks?** This is the number one question right now and snowbanks being referenced are everything from intersections, alleys, driveways, etc. The answer is that our first priority is to get the snow off the streets and we have to plow first. When we get a break between snow storms we have been out trying to attack the snowbanks. Here again, we need to prioritize the high danger areas starting with the higher traffic areas. We are logging the complaints/requests and have been working non-stop on either plowing or snow removal. I'm sure we will be working on this for many weeks.
- Why does the plow cover up my driveway after I shovel?** Unfortunately with the amount of snow along the streets and boulevards the snow has nowhere to go. The only options are that we go faster to throw the snow over the banks (which incidentally we get complaints on as well) or it carries along the banks until there's an opening (a driveway). This will now continue to be a problem until the snow melts or is carried away. We are sympathetic to this issue but need to get the snow off the roadways and do appreciate everyone's patience.
- Why didn't my garbage get picked up?** The simple answer is that you didn't shovel out your cans. We have had numerous issues where people are throwing their garbage bags on top of snowbanks off the alley. We are not going to be climbing snowbanks or digging through snow to get at your trash. You need to shovel out the area around your cans to provide access for the garbage men. The same policies apply to gas meters and mailboxes. These employees need access to do their jobs. Please help them out by clearing access.
- Off Street Parking?** With the issues previously mentioned with regards to snow removal it's even more important now to not park on the street. If you've noticed the streets and alley widths are getting narrower because of the snow banks. Add a car to that and it really starts to get dangerous. Find another place to park off the street. It sounds rough but we need to keep the street and alley access open for safety's sake and to allow our plow drivers to clear the roadways.



As we've said many times we really do appreciate your patience and help during this busy snow year. On the bright side spring will be here before you know it. Think positive!!



City Hall Offices will be CLOSED
Friday, March 29th for an in-service day.
All other Department will be open.



Don't Forget.....
Set your clocks
ahead
one hour
Sunday, March 10th





Cable TV - Rate Adjustment



During the 2018 budget hearings, the Norway City Council completed a review of the communications (cable) department and determined that the long standing philosophy of keeping television rates below market pricing needed to be addressed. At that time the city was looking at a deficit of \$16 per customer per month between the subscriber fees charged to the city and the subscriber fee Norway Cable charges its customers. Subsequently the rates were adjusted \$10 on July 1, 2018. Even though this was roughly half of the deficit, the decision was made to not make up all of the difference in one year. In January of 2019 the city received notice that subscriber fees charged to the city were increasing by an average 12%. Unfortunately the city cannot wait until July 1 and absorb all of that cost so the city council moved in February to increase the rates by \$13 effective February 1st. This will bring the subscriber fees that the city charges its customers in line with the subscriber fees that the city gets charged from the cable providers. It's unfortunate that the rates have had to be adjusted so dramatically over the past 12 to 18 months however the city cannot subsidize its cable video operations through other means just so we can provide below market cable pricing. We are always looking for ways to provide quality entertainment options for our customers but it must pay for itself. In the future we will be evaluating these options and looking for ways of lowering our costs. Some channel options which are extremely expensive may need to be eliminated in order to provide a cost effective package. The council will continue to review options and solicit feedback so that we continue to provide quality but also economical entertainment options for our customers.



JAKE MENGHINI MUSEUM—Craft Show!
 Saturday, March 16th, 9am until 3pm, American Legion
 621 Main Street, Norway Craft and Vendor sales
 Adm. only \$1 - Ample Free Parking, Handicap Accessible

2019 Tree Program
Order forms
Due March 15th



2019 Music In The Park



Concert series at the Historic Band Shell Downtown Norway.

Summer is around the corner!! That means sunshine, warm summer breezes, and, hopefully, a full slate of free concerts by area and regional artists and musical groups as we work to continue a popular downtown Thursday event which returned to Norway in 2017.

To make this summer's season a reality, we will need the entire community to come together, and since the elimination of funding from the state in 2015, we will need to rely solely on gifts from our community and business organizations. We have several levels of sponsorship, including a "full concert sponsor." If this is an attractive option for you, this level will include special recognition and possible input to "your" program.

Please consider a gift to "Music In The Park" this year, and send your donation (*with information below*) to:

Music In The Park C/o Mr. Ray Anderson, 915 Main Street Norway, MI 49870

Thank you for your consideration and support. Let's have a FANTASTIC season!

Sincerely, Your 2019 Music In The Park Committee (Carol Sundstrom, Greg Hunt, and Ray Anderson)

2019 Music In The Park Donation:

- \$50—\$249 Patron
- \$250—\$499 Silver Sponsor
- \$500 or more: Full Concert Sponsorship

* Special recognition. Include full address and phone information

Name of Individual or Business

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

- I wish to have my name (or business) acknowledged at each concert
- I would like to remain anonymous

**Cut out
and return**

Please makes checks payable to "City of Norway," Memo: "Music In The Park"