

(For April 2019)

Around the City with City Manager David Thayer

Spring has sprung as we put away our snow shovels and reach for our rakes in preparation for spring yard work. When I first arrived on the scene in 2015, there was a big push to eliminate blight and bring about a beautification plan for the City. We have made some progress on that front, but there is a lot more we all can do to achieve that goal. I recognized that if you want people to clean up their yards, you need to find a way to dispose of those items.

During the week of May 13th, we will continue our Spring Curbside Pick-up of leaves and brush using the traditional four zones the City is divided into starting with the Mineral Hills area on Monday and working down to the Stambaugh area on Thursday. All leaves must be bagged, and brush must be in lengths no longer than 8' with butts 4" or smaller facing the street. If you place your collectable items at the curb after the scheduled pick-up time for your zone, we will not be backtracking to pick them up.

From May 1st to October 31st, residents may drop off leaves, grass clippings, and brush at the DPW brush dump at Evergreen Street and Garfield Avenue, just west of the school, seven days a week.

We have scheduled our semi-annual large item collection program for Saturday, June 1st, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at the DPW Complex on S. Washington Avenue. For planning purposes, we will hold two collections each year, with the first being the first Saturday following Memorial Day, and the second on the first Saturday following Labor Day. New for this collection day, we will accept up to six passenger vehicle tires without rims per household and we will not accept loose used roofing shingles. You must provide proof of your residency to participate.

The last two years we have used the soft approach with enforcement of our blight ordinance to allow residents to adjust and recognize we are serious about blight eradication. This summer we will hold people accountable for cutting their grass, picking up junk items from their yards for disposal, and removing junk vehicles.

Starting with the 15th of each month, from May to September, grass and weeds can not exceed 8” in height. After observation of the violation, the Police Department will provide written notice of the violation and give the landowner 10 days to abate the violation. Thereafter, the City will cut the grass and charge the landowner the cost of doing so.

Junk vehicles are defined as incapable of being self-propelled upon public streets or which are unable to meet the requirements to operate upon public streets, including a current license. Junk vehicles are not allowed within the City unless stored within a compliant structure. We have worked out an arrangement with Tru- Recycling of Caspian, when presented with a valid title, they will come to your home, purchase your vehicle, and haul it away for you. Otherwise, individuals are responsible for their vehicle removal or they will receive a citation.

The City will continue its program of demolishing inhabitable buildings this summer. We are currently bidding the demolition of five houses. We will continue our inspections of buildings to identify inhabitable structures and order their removal. We will also cite those structures that are in disrepair.

We are working on becoming a community that is attractive and welcoming to those interested in relocating here to continue their journey through life. Because we all want Iron River to be known as, “Where you are always home!”