

(For July 2019)

Around the City with City Manager David Thayer

Planning consumes the winter, while implementation consumes the summer. The City is experiencing a plethora of projects as this column goes to press. MDOT is rebuilding Hwy. US-2 from River Avenue heading east four miles. Besides extending the life of the road, they are making many improvements such as safer access, drainage, and adding a bike lane. MDOT is doing an excellent job and should be finished by mid-August. The City is working to build a new sidewalk along Washington Avenue connecting Stambaugh Hill to US-2. This project will tie us into the new bike lane enabling bikers and hikers to traverse to Ice Lake Park.

The City's 2019 Street Improvement Program includes resurfacing Jefferson Avenue, from Amber Street to Iris Street, and Evergreen Street with improvements to drainage. We will try a new paving technique of applying a double chip seal with a fog coating to Spruce Street, Mineral Avenue, and Forbes Road. This application is limited to areas without curb and gutter, will give the streets a longer shelf life than paving, and costs 40% of what asphalt would cost. We are doing some spot resurfacing on Lalley Road, Mower Road, 2nd Avenue, N. 3rd Avenue, 17th Avenue, and repairs to the City Hall parking lot.

The 25 rain gardens along Genesee Street are scheduled for extensive restoration. We will also construct landscaping around the 3 new Welcome signs. We are placing new playground equipment at Nanaimo Park. At Nelson Field park we are installing new electrical service with a breaker panel to insure dependable service. We are looking into running new electric service to the tennis court lights if we can find the funds to do so. We hope to restore the bathhouse at Ice Lake Park with new paint and electrical service yet this year if we can find a contractor to assist. We plan to add 50-amp service to two sites at the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park. The City is currently rewriting our Community Recreation Plan. This effort will identify additional needs at our parks, and we will begin implementing them next summer.

Upgrades are underway at City Hall. We installed two fire escape doors leading from the Attic. We will replace the electrical service panel for the building, replace the second-floor windows facing 1st Avenue, and replace the lighting in the parking lot with LED technology.

We demolished five houses that were inhabitable along Kofmehl Road, Blossom Street, Cedar Avenue, W. Ice Lake Road, and Allen Street. In addition, we are acquiring five parcels from the State. The net result is we have several very desirable building sites in and around the City waiting for a new home upon them.

Our large item pickup program held semi-annually at the DPW grounds has finally matured to serve our intended audience. Our June program was the biggest one to date. We collected 33 tons of household debris, 7 tons of metal, and 7,280 pounds of tires. Our next program is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2019.

It is a busy summer and it will go quickly. Spend some time with your family and enjoy the blessing we are surrounded by. And remember to share our community message – Iron River is “Where you are always home”!