

Gardner City Hall

Office of Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

As of this email, there are currently still 1,356 properties in Gardner without power, with the majority of these residents being in South Gardner. South Gardner is fed from the Westminster Substation, while the remainder of the City is mostly fed from the Crystal Lake Substation. Where Westminster was hit much harder with the storm yesterday, we expect that to take them a while to fix.

The Gardner Police Station and the Gardner Senior Center have been opened as warming centers. The Gardner CAC will be providing hot soup to those utilizing these locations today for lunch. These will remain open until at least 7pm. We will reevaluate the situation as power gets restored to areas of the City.

The DPW received 65 calls last evening regarding trees blocking roads. They were able to get to as many of these locations as they could in between plow runs. There are two roads that are still closed due to downed trees and those will be taken care of as soon as staffing numbers allows. Per the City's union contract with the DPW workers and DPW foremen unions, if an employee works 16 hours straight the City is required to provide them with 8 hours off immediately after that for them to sleep. This mimics the requirements of State Law for CDL drivers.

Students are in school today. Dr. Pellegrino and I spoke at 5am this morning to discuss the situation. At that time, Dr. Pellegrino and I were driving around the City and the roads were clear. This was confirmed by the DPW and the Police Department for other areas of the City. Dr. Pellegrino and I both agreed that while there are still many locations in the City without power, it may be better for our students to be in the schools today since the roads were clear and safe for travel, it would provide our students with a warm location to be at, and they would get hot meals there too to eat, which may not be the case if they were to stay at home. As such, the originally called 2-hour delay was kept in place.

I will be meeting with several department heads later today to discuss plans for the storm tomorrow. With the snow and ice not melting off the trees yet, and an additional

six inches expected tomorrow, there are severe concerns of further power outages for longer periods of time. We will be evaluating the process for opening up temporary emergency shelters, the threshold for which a state of emergency would need to be called, our salt supply quantity, emergency food operations, and other topics. I will provide additional information to you all after that time.

Respectfully,

Mike Nicholson

Michael J. Nicholson

Mayor of the City of Gardner
Gardner City Hall, Rm 125
95 Pleasant St
Gardner, MA 01440