



NEWS ADVISORY

April 4, 2011

For immediate release

NEW STREET DIVISION WORK SCHEDULE AIMS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF AN UNUSUAL WINTER

At the direction of Mayor John Engen, City of Missoula crews will change it up this month to meet the challenges brought by the long, wet winter.

Because of the winter damage incurred by many streets, Street Division crews will focus major efforts on repaving and pothole patching through spring and summer. And because the early arrival of snow and freezing weather last fall meant that leaf piles spent the winter on the streets in some neighborhoods, crews will pick up leaves through April.

Here's what will be different this spring:

- Street sweeping that normally takes place in April in sweeping Area 1 and Area 2, the Grant Creek and Rattlesnake Valley neighborhoods, will instead be done in June. **However, sweeping in Special District #1 will be done as usual on Tuesday, April 5, along with leaf pickup. Parking is prohibited from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Cars will be moved by towing, usually less than one block away, at City expense. Special Districts 2 and 3 will also be swept later in April according to the regular schedule.
- Crews will pick up leaves during April, concentrating on days when weather is too wet for paving and pothole patching.

Crews will continue to sweep priority main routes to comply with local air quality standards.

Meanwhile, work will continue on patching potholes and overlaying damaged streets with new surfaces on a priority basis.

Crews will pave streets whenever weather permits. Work is continuing on Russell Street, which is getting a new surface from Broadway to Fourth Street. Van Buren Street is up next. Mullan Road from Broadway to Reserve Street is also set for repaving. The City is working with the Montana Department of Transportation to schedule repaving for South Avenue. Hillview Way is also a priority, depending on expense.

The once-in-30-years winter has called for a once-in-30-years response, said Mayor John Engen.

“Street maintenance is one of the most important things we do in our service to the public,” he said. “This spring, the winter damage has required an extraordinary response, and we’re doing that, every day. We appreciate everyone’s patience.”

The City of Missoula’s annual Street Sweeping flyer will appear in the Missoulian on Tuesday, April 12. To see the flyer on our website, look here:

<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=773>

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For interviews about this spring’s street maintenance activities, call Street Superintendent Brian Hensel at 552-6360.

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