

News from Avon Township

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Bing Crosby fans must be happy. We will definitely have a “White Christmas.”

Although the snow is beautiful and provides a nostalgic backdrop to the holiday season, it makes driving difficult. Which means, our snowplows and drivers have been very busy the past few weeks.

As you might guess, clearing 44 miles of roadway in a timely fashion is a big job. The Township takes this responsibility very seriously. We spend a considerable amount of time and a large portion of the Town budget on the process.

First, we have to be sure that our three trucks are in tip-top shape. During the summer and fall our maintenance staff spend hours working on the vehicles making sure they are road-worthy and will pass DOT inspection.

We have two big trucks – “Red” and “Blue.” These are the “workhorses” that keep the roads snow-free. We also have a pickup with a blade for the cul-de-sacs, which are difficult for the large trucks to access.

Knowing when to send out the plows is challenging. Our policy is to wait until there is an inch of snow on the road. If you start plowing too late, it might be difficult for residents to get to/from school or work. If you plow too soon, additional snowfall could mean that by the time we finish we may need to start all over again. We make the best informed decision we can, but a crystal ball would be certainly helpful in making the call when to send out the plows. I’m reminded of the expression, “Hindsight is always 20/20.”

On occasion, a mailbox will be damaged from plowing. We understand that this would be upsetting. However, in most cases the damage is not caused by the plow hitting the mailbox, but from the snow that is being pushed up. The Town policy is to replace the mailbox if we hit it and it is on a breakaway post. Otherwise, it is the resident’s responsibility (If you want to read the Township snow plowing policy, please check out our website (Inside/Roads, and Resolution 11-05-14).

We’ve had complaints about the plows ripping up sod and getting too close to prized trees. The drivers do their absolute best to avoid any damage. However, residents should be reminded

that the right-of-way of the road extends as much as 60 feet from the edge of road. No obstacles should be placed in the right-of-way that could affect plowing or passing motorists. Finally, residents are also reminded that it is illegal to plow snow across the road.

The Township will continue to do the best job we can clearing the roads in a timely manner. If you have a concern, please contact me and I will relay it to our Supervisors. Until the next storm, "May your days be merry and bright. And all your Christmases be white."