



The New Garden Lyceum

Community Newsletter

December 2014 Issue

Public Works

It's that time of the year again. If this winter is anything like last year we are in for another brutal season. I would like to take a few minutes to talk about our winter operations to help answer some frequently asked questions.

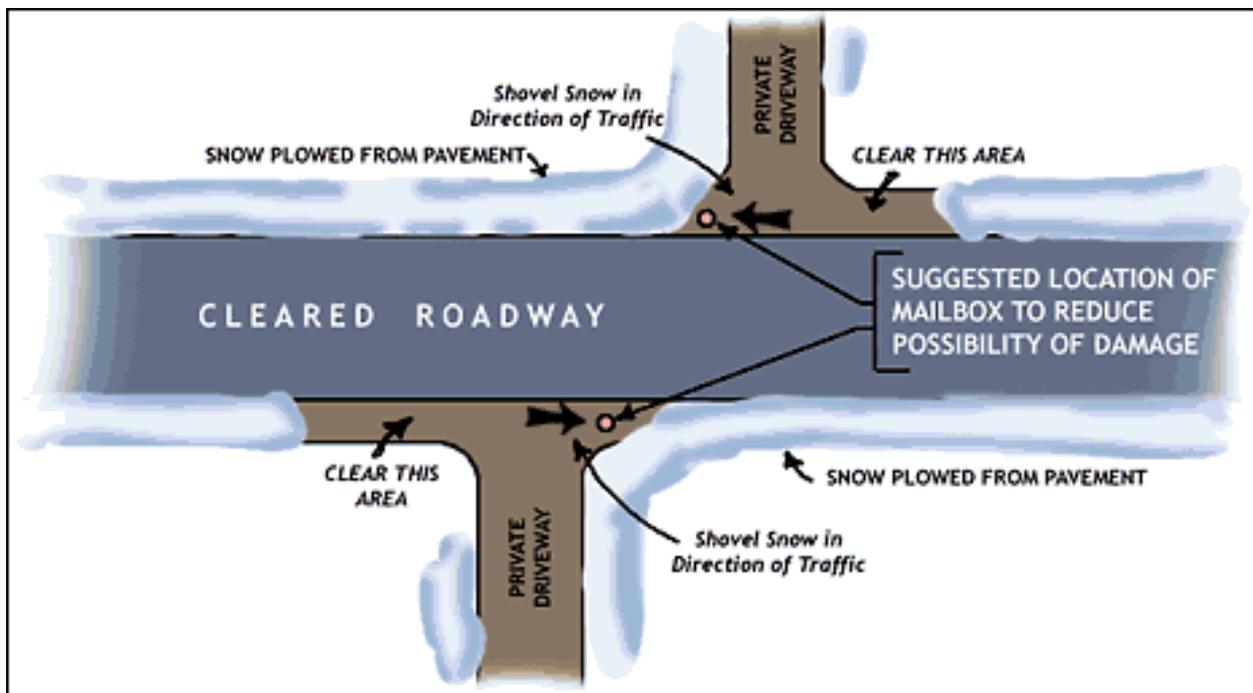


Winter Operations

The public works department is made up of six full time employees that have designated routes for snow and ice removal. A total of four large trucks and two small trucks run their designated routes with Route 41 being the dividing line. Half the trucks clear the Northern section, and the other half clear the Southern section of the Township. The larger trucks run a salt and anti-skid mixture for main roads and the two smaller trucks use pure salt mainly for developments. A single pass normally takes about 3 hours to cover the entire township depending on time of day and the amount of traffic. In snow events greater than three inches or with low temperatures it is time to start plowing. A round of salt goes down first to keep the snow from freezing to the roads before we start plowing. After the salt is down we continue making single passes in each direction to ensure emergency vehicles have access to the road. We concentrate on the main roads and then go to the smaller, less traveled development roads. Once the storm ends we restart our routes until the full width of the road is cleared and all intersections and cul-de-sacs are cleaned up. After all roads are clean, a final round of salt is applied.

What can I do to help?

The snowfall totals we had last year undoubtedly left some residents unhappy. Common issues were damaged yards, downed mailboxes, plowed in driveways, displaced trashcans and recycle bins. Yard markers placed about foot off of the road in your yard can help us greatly reduce damage to your yard. Placement and size of mailboxes contribute to the possibility of your mailbox being damaged, the larger the box the more likely it is to be taken down during snow plowing. It is also a good idea to place the mailbox on the far side of your driveway from the flow of traffic. Driveway snow does not go on the road. Placing snow on the road creates a hazard for drivers by making a slippery or uneven road surface that can surprise drivers and cause accidents. It is also a good idea to keep trashcans and recycle bins as close to the house as possible during snow events to reduce the chances damage or misplacement. Please refer to the attached photo explaining recommended mailbox placement and how to properly clear your driveway to reduce the chances of mailbox damage or getting plowed in by our trucks.



Commonly overlooked are the fire hydrants in your neighborhood. If at all possible please clear snow from around them as soon as possible to allow them to be used in the event of an emergency. Finally, if your vehicle is parked on a road maintained by the Township, and it is interfering with traffic flow or snow plowing, it will be towed at the owner's expense. All efforts are made by the police to notify the owner before towing and the plows will make a good effort to work around them, but if the driver doesn't feel there is enough room to maneuver safely the road will not be plowed until the vehicle is moved or towed.

What to do if my yard or mailbox is damaged by a plow?

If your mailbox is damaged by direct contact with our plow or truck a report can be filed with the Township Road Master by email at roadmaster@newgarden.org or by phone at (610) 268-0883. He will inspect the damage to the mailbox and will, at his discretion, authorize repairs up

to \$50.00. If the box is damaged or blocked by the snow coming from the plow it is the homeowner's responsibility to make the necessary repairs to allow the Postal Service to continue to deliver mail. The Township maintains a Right-of-Way along all dedicated roads; generally this Right-of-Way is 16' on connector roads and 25' for development roads in each direction of the center of the road. Anything placed within the Right-of-Way by the property owner is not the responsibility of the Township and will not be replaced or repaired.