

The first snow of the season recently fell, and you may wonder how we go about plowing the Town's streets. The Public Works Department always makes county roads the #1 priority due to road speeds and traffic conditions. Crews are called out to county roads for pretreatment, slick roads, icing conditions, and possible accumulations (even those less than 3"). Main roads throughout the Town get plowed when salt treatment is considered ineffective by the Public Works Department. Plows are called out to subdivisions and neighborhoods after a snow fall of at least 3 inches.

Every weather system is different, and we strive to clear every street in a timely fashion. We clear only the streets that have been turned over to the Town from the developers. Some HOAs are responsible for snow removal within their subdivision. If uncertain who is responsible for snow removal in your subdivision, please contact your HOA to find out details. When clearing your driveways and sidewalks, please throw the snow into your yards, otherwise Street Department crews have to take extra time to come back and the snow could be plowed back into your driveway. The Public Works Department has 4 pick-up trucks equipped with snow plows used mainly in subdivisions and Town facilities. We also have a 1 ton and single axle dump truck equipped with both salt spreader and snow plow. These 2 trucks take care of county roads.

Within subdivisions we first plow the middle of the streets, then return with a second or third pass to clear as close to the curbs as possible. We move slowly so we don't damage mailboxes and we try to clear the snow away as close to the mailbox as possible to allow the mail carriers enough room for delivery. However, this is not always easy to do, especially in the cul-de-sacs because the circle simply isn't big enough to get as close as we might like. When cars are parked next to the curbs we must plow around them causing the vehicles to be plowed in. Once the vehicle is moved it then causes a hazard within the drive lane. Please reference town **ordinance 040814**. When orange or red travel advisories are issued for Hancock County, on-street parking shall be prohibited. Leaving vehicles parked in the roadway could result in a fine and/or impoundment. Therefore, we ask that vehicles be moved into your driveway prior to a snow event where accumulation is expected.

We understand children love playing in the snow. However, this can be dangerous. Please keep children away from the streets and snow piles within rights-of-way when plow trucks are present. Safety is our first priority and it can be difficult to concentrate on plowing when children are playing too close to roadways and snow piles.

Cul-de-sacs can be difficult. Since we must push the snow somewhere it will likely be pushed into your yard. Depending on where your driveway, mailbox, electrical box, fire hydrant, exc. Is situated on your lot, this can be tricky and, in some cases very time consuming. If you live in a cul-de-sac, please understand that we do not clear them entirely until all roadways are clear.

When there is accumulating snowfall during the day or night we make every attempt to keep the streets cleared, even if it means plowing day and night. Please always use caution and have a safe winter! If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Public Works Department at 317-335-3493.

