

## Winter Reminders from the Utilities Department

December 5, 2011

Listed below are various tips, strategies and reminders to consider during the winter months to ensure everyone's safety.

Please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of each property owner to see that their sidewalks are kept clear of snow and ice; this is per Village Ordinance 96-24, which was passed on October 7, 1996. In addition to keeping ice and snow cleared from your sidewalks, Village Ordinance 06-25 requires that all sidewalks are kept free of other nuisances and obstructions, such as vehicles parked over the sidewalks.

1. As per Village Ordinance 96-24, no one shall cause snow removed from sidewalks and/or driveways to be placed in any roadway.
2. If there is a fire hydrant located adjacent to your property, clear a path from the street to the hydrant so the fire department can gain quicker access in the event of a fire.
3. If you apply an ice melting compound to your sidewalks and/or driveway, distribute it evenly to avoid severe damage to the surface.
4. Be neighborly; volunteer to clear sidewalks for elderly or disabled residents who are unable to clear them.
5. Do not set your garbage cans in the road during snow removal; plows may have to work around them causing the truck to cross the centerline of the road. Once your garbage and recycle has been collected, pull the cans back as soon as possible.
6. Do not park vehicles in cul-de-sacs or on any street that has a curb, during snow events. This practice makes it more difficult for crews to properly clean the streets.
7. Instruct your children to NOT play on large piles of snow; although they are appealing, they can be just as dangerous.
8. If you contract with someone to clear snow from your property, advise them to be sure to remove all snow from the street and have a designated area in your yard for them to place the snow. Failure to comply may result in a violation as per Village Ordinance 96-24.
9. How to clear snow from your driveway: Shovel snow in the direction of traffic and shovel a "pocket" on the left side of your driveway (as you're standing in the drive facing the street). This "pocket" will accept most of the snow dropped by the plow truck during the next pass through and prevent your driveway from being "plugged" with snow again. (sketch included to show example of how we suggest driveways should be cleared).
10. Do not follow plow trucks closely; they periodically have to make sudden stops and visibility behind trucks can be limited due to blowing snow from the plow.
11. Limit your time driving on the roads during heavier snow events. It becomes more difficult to clear the streets with so many vehicles on the roadways. Check with local authorities to see what level of snow emergency is in effect and whether or not you should be on the roadways. Always allow extra time to reach your destination during snow events.
12. Village crews clear the main roads first, followed by secondary roads, alleys and pedestrian walk bridges.