

Winter hints from Woodbridge Public Works

The winter season is upon us and it is good time to remind residents of policies and practices relating to winter weather.

Mailboxes: Department policy is “not to replace posts or mailboxes unless direct contact is made from the plow or vehicle”. We do have methods of determining if direct contact is made with posts or mailboxes, “only then will we replace or repair damaged items”. They are susceptible to damage from winter elements during plowing operations due to snow or slush being plowed from the road. “This is not considered direct contact”. The weight of snow, especially when wet, along with centrifugal force can often knock off or break mailboxes and posts. In these cases, you the owner are responsible for repair or replacement. It is advisable to check your mailboxes and posts for secure connection. Sturdy wood or metal posts are advocated, as plastic posts and mailboxes do not withstand low temperatures or the weight of snow pushed toward them. Often, even new wood mailbox posts will split or the cross bar will separate. Shielding of the mailbox or post will help and it may be advisable to reinforce the cross bar connection.

Parking: It is suggested that residents keep their vehicles off the road during snow removal operations. Parking regulated by Ordinance is described under, Article X, Section 2. Parking restricted During Storms “No vehicle may park on any highway of the Town of Woodbridge so as to interfere with operations for the removal of snow and/or the sanding of highways during the time of falling snow, sleet, or freezing rain; and thereafter until the highway has been cleared of snow, or sanded.” When parking bans go into effect the local media will carry advisements that residents can monitor. The department would like to thank residents for the “anticipated cooperation in keeping vehicles off the road during winter storms” to assist the department with maintenance operations.

Helpful ideas: Check your mailboxes and posts before the ground freezes. Install a protective shield (i.e. an anchored panel of wood or a brace). Install plow guide markers along your driveway or edge of road to aid plow operators; again this should be done before the ground freezes. Notify Public Works if a road storm drain is obstructed with ice or snow. Although, this is normally monitored heavy snow or ice can build up and obscure the drain, thus flooding can occur creating a traffic hazard.