

# CITY OF MERIDEN

## SNOW AND MORE

**Information on snow plowing, parking bans, leaf collection and more**



**This document was prepared by the City of Meriden Public Works Department and contains information regarding snow removal, parking bans, leaf and Christmas tree collection, and other important information.**

### Goals

The goals of the City of Meriden snow and ice control operations are to provide cost effective clearing and removal of snow and ice from City streets, to minimize the hazards of slippery road conditions encountered by both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, to reduce economic losses associated by workers unable to reach their destination, and to restore traveling conditions throughout the City in the shortest time possible after completion of each storm event.

## **Winter Parking Ban**

Parked vehicles are the biggest obstacle to effective snow removal. Please support our efforts by parking your vehicle in conformance with Chapter 200, Section 200-25 (C) which states:

- Parking any vehicle on any public street or highway between November 1 and March 15 during any snow, sleet or freezing rain storm is prohibited.
- The parking of any vehicle on the streets during a snowstorm or until the snow has been completely cleared from the streets following a storm is prohibited between midnight and 7:00 A.M.

Additionally,

- The Director of Public Works may declare a parking ban.
- Residents are asked to remove vehicles from the street prior to the start of a snowstorm. This makes plowing safer, more efficient and cost effective.
- Information regarding storm specific parking bans is reported to the following television and radio station:
  - WFSB – Channel 3
  - WTNH – Channel 8
  - WVIT – Channel 30
  - WTIC – Channel 61
  - WTIC – AM 1080

## **Sidewalk Clearing**

Residents are reminded that Section 180-44 of the City Code requires the owner or the owner's agent of any premises abutting upon any street or public place in the city where there is a sidewalk to **remove snow from the sidewalk within 12 hours after sunrise.** Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in a fine.

Section 180-45 of the City Code requires the owner or the owner's agent of any premises abutting upon any street or public place in the city where there is a sidewalk covered with ice, within the space of six hours thereafter and during the daytime, to make the sidewalk safe and convenient by removing the ice and covering the sidewalk with sand or a similar product and renew the application as often as needed to keep the sidewalk safe and convenient.

Section 180-48 of the City Code prohibits the depositing of snow or ice into any city street in a manner that may impede or cause inconvenience to public travel.

Please remember the final snow plow pass is not made until the storm has ended. The final pass will result in snow being re-deposited onto your sidewalk or into your driveway if you have deposited snow onto the City street. Your cooperation in clearing the sidewalks is an essential safety measure for children and other pedestrians using the sidewalks.

## **School Closings and Delays**

Information regarding school closings and delays is reported to the following sources:

Radio – WTIC 1080 AM; WTIC 96.5 FM; WZMX 93.7 FM; WRCH 100.5 FM; WRYM 840 AM (Spanish)

Television – Channel 3, Channel 8, Channel 30, Channel 61

## **Mailboxes**

While plow truck drivers make every effort to avoid mailboxes, they do, on occasion, hit or knock one over. Operators must report these incidents to their supervisor. It is also possible that mailboxes can be knocked over by heavy snow without the operator's knowledge. Residents may file a claim for damage through the City Clerk's Office.

It is the City's policy to replace a mailbox struck by a City vehicle if the mailbox was mounted on a sturdy post and located in accordance with U.S. Postal Service (USPS) standards. The post office will not deliver mail until the mailbox is replaced. These standards are summarized below:

- The bottom of the mailbox shall be 3-1/2 to 4 feet from ground level.
- The face of the mailbox shall be flush with the back of the curb or set back 6 to 12 inches from the edge of the road.
- All mailboxes should have a handle, flag, and the house number on the right side as you face it from the street.
- Customers must keep the approach to their mailbox clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If the USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mailbox, the Postmaster may withdraw delivery service.
- Curbside mailboxes must be installed to allow safe and convenient delivery by carriers without leaving their vehicles.

## **Fire Hydrants**

Owners of property and occupants of buildings that have a fire hydrant located in front of it are requested to clear a four-foot area in all directions around the hydrant and a three-foot wide path from the street to the fire hydrant. The Fire Department counts on hydrants being cleared of snow to help protect your safety.

## **Catch Basins and Storm Inlets**

Help minimize street flooding by shoveling snow and ice away from any catch basin/storm inlet located near your property. This includes keeping catch basin grates free of leaves and other debris all year long.

## **Snow Plowing**

Please keep a minimum of 75 feet from snow plowing equipment.

During snowstorms, City crews plow based on established City priorities: main roads (i.e. East Main Street, West Main Street), followed by secondary streets (i.e. Paddock Avenue, Hanover Street) followed by residential subdivisions. A single pass in either direction may occur on a residential subdivision street until the snowfall ends. Then all roads are plowed curb to curb.

## **Anti-Icing**

Anti-icing refers to a collection of strategies and techniques used to prevent snow from bonding to the road surface. Salt and/or salt brine maybe applied to the road surface in advance of the storm. The salt lowers the freezing temperature of water and prevents ice from bonding to the road. De-icing, in contrast, refers to snow and ice removal after bonding has occurred.

Anti-icing creates brine on the road surface that acts as a barrier between falling snow and the pavement. Snow may accumulate on the road surface, but because of the barrier snow won't bond to it.

The key to anti-icing is the application of the salt. Timing is everything: if the salt is applied to the road too soon, the resulting brine may freeze as the falling snow dilutes it. If it is applied too late after the storm begins, snow will have already bonded to the road surface.

Anti-icing has many advantages:

- City crews can respond to storms more proactively by beginning treatment in advance of the storm.
- Anti-icing enables a quicker return to improved road conditions resulting in fewer delays and crashes.

- If the storm is delayed, some residual salt remains on the road ready to begin work when the precipitation begins.
- Crews can efficiently cover more territory because a truckload of salt will last longer than a traditional truckload of sand-salt mix.

## **Reduction of Sand Use**

Traditionally, snow storms have been fought by applying either a mixture of three parts sand to one salt or straight sand.

Salt melts snow and ice. Sand does not.

Sand increases friction, thereby providing better traction and control of vehicles. For sand to actually improve traction, it must remain between the tire and the ice. It does no good once it is buried in snow. Vehicle traffic will work sand into fresh snow and render it useless. Research on friction on pavement treated with sand shows there is little benefit when traffic is present. Sand is most effective during very low temperatures (below 5 degrees F) where salt is ineffective or during freezing rain conditions. The City now uses little to no sand during the majority of its snow removal operations.

Benefits of Reducing Sand Use:

- Elimination of sand from entering our brooks and streams.
- Reduction in Spring clean up time for both the City and property owners.
- Reduction in air pollution from blowing sand particles.
- Buildings and homes are cleaner since less sand and mud is tracked in from streets and municipal parking lots.
- Reduction in windshield damage and chipped paint.

What changes will the public see?

- There will be some storms where the City snowplow drivers will be applying material to the roads before or just as a storm is starting.
- The streets and edges of the road will not have a brown appearance that is associated with the use of sand.

## **Driveway Clearing Tips**

The following suggestions are intended to make your driveway snow removal easier and safer.

- If possible, wait until the road has been completely plowed to the curb/edge of pavement before shoveling the last 5 to 10 feet of your driveway. It takes 3 to 5 hours after a typical snow storm has ended for the City to completely clear snow from all roads to the curb/edge of pavement.

- It is best to place the snow on the far side of your driveway, away from the direction the plow is traveling. In most cases, this means placing the snow on the right side of your driveway as you face the road. This way the plow will carry the snow away from your driveway, rather than back into it. The City is not responsible for snow which is deposited in private driveways.
- Do NOT shovel, blow, or plow snow from your driveway or sidewalk into or across the road. Section 180-48 of the City Code prohibits the depositing of snow or ice into any city street in a manner that may impede or cause inconvenience to public travel. **Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your contractor.**
- Do NOT allow children to play on snow banks along the side of the road. The City may need to push back snow banks days after a storm to create room for the next snow event.

### **Winter Driving Checklist and Tips**

- Keep good all season tires on your vehicle.
- Keep a shovel in your vehicle.
- Clean your vehicle of all snow and ice including the roof.
- Allow extra time to reach your destination. During storms, travel only when absolutely necessary.
- Keep a safe distance from plow trucks, minimum of 75 feet, and other vehicles.

### **Winter Sand**

The City has ended the practice of providing sand for its residents.

### **Christmas Trees**

The City provides curbside pick-up of Christmas trees during the month of January. No appointment necessary. Collection begins around January 10 for residents living east of the railroad tracks and lasts for two (2) weeks before the collection begins west of the railroad tracks. The collection for residents living west of the tracks begins around January 24 and last two weeks. Specific dates are posted on the City's website, Facebook, Twitter and the local news media. Residents may dispose of Christmas trees at the Transfer Station at no cost during normal hours of operation. For hours of operation, please visit the City's website, [www.cityofmeriden.org](http://www.cityofmeriden.org). From the home page, click on municipal services>public works>transfer station.

### **Leaves and Trees**

The City provides residents with curbside pick-up of leaves. No appointment necessary. The City will collect leaves east of the railroad tracks beginning approximately November 15 and ending around November 30. Residents living west of the railroad

tracks will have their leaves collected between December 1 and December 15. Specific dates will be posted on the City's webpage, Facebook, Twitter and the local news media. **Leaves are not collected by the City during the spring.**

The Transfer Station is open daily during the month of November between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM for the disposal of leaves and brush.

If there is a tree in front of your home that you believe should be removed due to possible disease, causing damage to the sidewalk or severely unbalanced due to trimming by the utility companies, contact Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings at 203-630-4259.

### **Portable Basketball Hoops**

Residents are asked not to leave portable basketball hoops in the City's right-of-way. The portable basketball hoops are dangerous to both the snow plow driver and the residents should one be hit and it becomes airborne. The City is not responsible for damage done by plows to basketball hoops left in the City right-of-way.

### **Street Sweeping**

The Public Works Department generally begins the street sweeping program around the last week of March, weather permitting. Residents can assist in the following ways:

- Limit parking on the street until your street has been swept.
- Sweep and/or rake the sand on your sidewalks and lawns into the street.
- Keeps leaves, branches, rocks and other miscellaneous debris out of the street. This can cause damage to the sweeper and delay the program.
- Do NOT sweep sand or other debris into catch basins, storm inlets or watercourses.

### **Alternative Energy Solutions**

As traditional energy costs continue to rise, citizens are looking for alternative solutions to heat their homes. Many are turning to space heaters, fireplaces and wood/coal burning stoves for warmth. Citizens should be aware that while these heat sources can be effective alternatives, they can pose serious home safety dangers.

The Fire Department stresses the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Detectors save lives. Statistics validate this.

Before using alternative heating solutions please contact the City Fire Marshal at 203-630-4010 for suggestions on the safe use and hazards associated with them.

Before the installation of any source of heat, a permit is required from the Building Department. A post installation inspection is required. You may contact the Building Department at 203-630-4091.

## **Potholes**

Potholes are formed when water seeps into cracks in the pavement surface and the continual freeze-thaw cycle moves the surface of the pavement. Unfortunately, during periods where the weather fluctuates from freezing to warm temperatures the formation of potholes is unavoidable. Spring temperatures warm the cold pavement, melting and evaporating any frozen water. This action weakens the pavement. Traffic loosens the pavement even more, and it eventually crumbles and pops out. The pounding of tires wears a hole in the underlying gravel and a pothole is formed. A winter of heavy snow or rain and several freeze-thaw cycles can mean a big pothole season ahead.

During the weeks leading up to the winter season, City crews make pavement repairs to help minimize the formation of potholes. The patching of potholes continues throughout the winter. During cold weather, temporary repairs are made with cold patch. During the warmer months, hot asphalt is used to repair the damaged road surface.

## **Permits**

Prior to the construction of driveways, sidewalks, storm drains, water services, sanitary sewers, etc, a permit is required from the Engineering Division of Public Works. Application forms and directions are available on the City's website. The address is [www.cityofmeriden.org](http://www.cityofmeriden.org). From the home page, click on municipal services>public works>public works file repository.

A permit is required for the placement of a dumpster within the City's right of way.

## **Recycling**

By State Statute and City Code, recycling is required. The City implemented single stream recycling on July 1, 2010. The benefits of single stream recycling include the elimination of product separation and an increase in the items that are recycled. The following items are recyclable:

- Food and Beverage Containers including clear or colored glass bottles/jars, single serve containers, pint, quart, and half gallon juice and milk cartons, laundry detergent and shampoo bottles.
- Paper including newspapers, inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, office paper and gray board (cereal boxes, paper towel tubes, shoeboxes, etc), stationary, envelopes including those with plastic windows and direct mail pieces.
- Glass and Metal Food Containers including aluminum foil baking pans.
- Numbers 1 through 7 plastic containers
- Corrugated Cardboard

**Please note that all items must be free of contamination and be clean.**

The following items **are not acceptable** recyclable items.

- Household trash, ceramics and appliances.
- Aerosol cans.
- Prescription Drug Containers.
- Knives, light bulbs, mirrors, syringes/needles and window glass.
- Plastic bags.
- Toxic fluids such as antifreeze, motor oil, pesticides, paint cans and household cleaners.
- Plastic toys.

The following electronic devices can be recycled during normal Transfer Station hours. The Transfer Station is located on Evansville Avenue adjacent to the Water Pollution Control Facility: Monitors, CPUs, Batteries (non lead acid), iPods, PDAs, Cell Phones, Fax Machines, CRTs, Terminals, Stereos, Radios, Toner Cartridges, Printers, Keyboards, Copiers, Telephones, Cables, VCRs, Modems, Mainframes, Typewriters, Laptops, Televisions and Inkjet Cartridges. There is no charge for the disposal of these items.

### **Street Lights**

Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) is the owner and maintainer of the street lights that illuminate our streets. If you find a street light that is not working, you may report this to CL&P using the internet. The address is [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com) >for my home>customer service>service request>streetlight program.

### **Transfer Station**

The Public Works Department operates and maintains a bulky waste Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is located on Evansville Avenue, opposite the Meriden Markham Municipal Airport and immediately south of the Meriden Water Pollution Control Facility.

Transfer Station fees are per vehicle, per use, non-commercial vehicles only, payable at the Transfer Station. We accept cash and checks. Checks must have your current phone number printed on them. Leaves and brush are accepted from any non-commercial vehicle at no charge. Proof of residency is required.

For additional information, please visit the City's website, [www.cityofmeriden.org](http://www.cityofmeriden.org). From the home page, click on municipal services>public works>transfer station.