CITY OF MERIDEN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION GUIDE

This document was prepared by the City of Meriden Department of Public Works 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.

- The City provides off street parking at Columbus Park (Lewis Ave.) and Washington Park (Liberty St.) when a parking ban has been declared.

- 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 are reported to the following television and radio station:

    - WFSB – Channel 3
    - WTNH – Channel 8
    - WVIT – Channel 30
    - WTIC – FoxCT
    - WTIC – AM 1080

- Parking ban information is available through Twitter, Facebook and the City's website.

Sidewalk Clearing

Residents are reminded that Section 180-46 of the City Code requires the owner or the owner's agent of any property 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 180-47 of the City Code requires the owner or the owner's agent of any property 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 needed to keep the sidewalk safe and convenient.

Section 180-50 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 several hours after the storm has ended. The final pass, which cleans the road from curb to curb, will result in snow being re-deposited onto your sidewalk or into your driveway. Your cooperation in clearing the sidewalks is an essential safety measure for children and other pedestrians using the sidewalks.

For additional information regarding the City's Snow and Ice Removal Ordinance, please visit ***http://ecode360.com/13491136***

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, FoxCT

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.

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has published standards for the installation of mailboxes. 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 (no curb).
- 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 postal employee is 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.

The City is responsible for plowing approximately 190 miles of streets. To accomplish this, the City has established a priority system based on the following parameters: main roads (i.e. East Main Street, West Main Street), followed by secondary streets (i.e. Paddock Avenue, Hanover Street) followed by through residential subdivision streets followed by cul-de-sacs. A single pass 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 the road surface.

The key to anti-icing is timing. 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

Salt melts snow and ice. Sand does not.

Sand is only used during ice storms when sand provides better traction. Sand increases friction, thereby providing better traction and control of vehicles. Sand is ineffective once it is buried. 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.

Benefits of Reduced 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 sand is not tracked in from streets and parking lots.
- Reduction in windshield damage and chipped paint.
- 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 6 to 7 hours after a typical snow storm has ended for the City to 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 180-50 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.**
- Shoveling or plowing snow onto the road creates a hazard to other road users and snow plow operators.
- 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 the fuel tank full. Top off before reaching half a tank.
- Carry a shovel, flashlight, flares and salt in your vehicle.
- Clean your vehicle, including the roof and all windows, of all snow and ice.
- Allow extra time to reach your destination. During storms, travel only when absolutely necessary.
- Keep windshield wipers and defoggers in good condition.
- Always assume road conditions are worse than they are and allow additional travel time. Drive cautiously and courteously.
- Keep a safe distance from plow trucks, minimum of 75 feet, and other vehicles.

Sand

The City does not provide sand for our residents.

Christmas Trees

The City provides curbside pick-up of Christmas trees during the month of January. No appointment necessary. Collection begins right after "Three Kings Day" 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 20 and last two weeks. Specific starting 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, which is located on Evansville Ave., at no cost during normal Transfer Station hours. For hours of operation, please visit the City's website, www.cityofmeriden.org. From the home page, click on municipal services>public works>transfer station.

All ornaments, lights, garland, etc. shall be removed from the tree. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected nor accepted at the Transfer Station.

Leaves and Trees

The City provides residents with curbside pick-up of leaves. No appointment necessary. The City collect leaves randomly beginning around November 15 and ending around mid December, depending on weather. When raking/blowing leaves, leaves should not be deposited into the street. This may result in localized flooding due to the clogging of catch basins and may impact the ability for drivers to safely stop when the leaves are wet. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected. Only paper tape such as masking tape should be used to seal bags. **The City does not collect leaves in the spring.**

The Transfer Station has extended weekday hours during the month of November between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM for the disposal of leaves and brush, except on Monday's and Wednesday's when normal hours are in effect.

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.
- Keep leaves, branches, rocks and other miscellaneous debris out of the street. This can cause damage to the sweeper and delay the program.
- Do NOT place leaves, trash or other debris into catch basins, storm inlets or watercourses.

Alternative Energy Solutions

Many citizens are looking for alternative solutions to heat their homes and 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 and a post installation inspection is required. For additional information, 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 result in a big pothole season ahead.

Prior 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 winter months cold patch is used to repair potholes. The City purchased a patch truck which has the ability to raise the temperature of the cold patch thereby creating a longer lasting patch. During the warmer months, this same vehicle is used to maintain the temperature of hot asphalt which translates into a better patch.

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. 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 **<u>are not acceptable</u>** 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, pool chemicals and household cleaners.
- Plastic toys.

The following electronic devices can be recycled during normal Transfer Station hours at no charge: 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.

Street Lights

The City of Meriden owns and maintains the street lights that illuminate our streets. If you find a street light that is not working, you may report this to Tanko's Street Light Outage Call Center at 855-201-2613. Notification of non-emergency street light outages can be reported using the following link: http://tankolighting.com/meridenmaintenance/

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 and starter checks are not accepted Leaves and brush are accepted from any non-commercial vehicle at no charge. Proof of residency is required.

The Transfer Station closes during inclement weather.

For additional information, please visit the City's website, www.cityofmeriden.org. From the home page, click on municipal services>public works>transfer station.

Solid Waste and Recycling Collection

The solid waste and recycling haulers observe the following holidays: New Year's, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas which means solid waste and recycling are not collected on these days. When these holidays occur on a weekday, the collection of solid waste and recycling is pushed out one day for that week. For instance, if the holiday falls on a Tuesday, trash and recycling normally collected on Tuesday would be collected on Wednesday, Wednesday trash and recycling on Thursday, etc.

Tag Sale and Garage Sale Signs

The City of Meriden respectfully request that you remove and properly dispose of these signs after your event. Removal of these signs will assist in improving the appearance of our neighborhoods as well as reducing litter.