

The village snow removal plan

Letter to the Editor

by Frank E. Durante, Fruitport Village trustee

The winter of 2013-2014 has been one of the snowiest in Michigan's recorded history, and the Village of Fruitport was no exception to that phenomenon. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recorded the 2013-2014 snowfall season as having over 100 inches of snow as of February 7, with most of southwest lower Michigan experiencing between 30 and 50 inches above normal levels.

The Village of Fruitport was prepared for this winter by having plenty of road salt, performing regular vehicle maintenance, and by purchasing an additional used plow truck. The village has two regular Department of Works (DPW) employees, and contracts with an additional vendor when circumstances call for extra labor. Unlike other municipalities, your village was able to stay within its snow removal budget this year.

The typical DPW work day for plowing starts promptly at 4 a.m. with major streets cleared first. The village snow removal plan (http://villageoffruitport.com/snow_plow_plan.htm) describes snow removal as follows:

1. Major streets. With two inches of snow or more, all major streets will be plowed. As major streets are plowed, a salt/sand mix will be applied during the second pass to reduce plowing and icing conditions.

2. Major streets and icy road conditions. If there are less than 3 inches of snow and icing conditions are widespread, salt/sand mix will be done at some stop signs and other areas.

3. Local streets. Local streets are plowed after major streets.

4. Weekend plowing. Limited major streets will be plowed on weekends if two or more inches of snow fall. With 4 inches of powdered snow or less, local streets will not be plowed on weekends. If a major snow has occurred on a weekend, local streets, including dead ends, will be plowed for passage only.

5. Weekdays: Only during regular working hours and after all the streets are plowed and salted. Sidewalks, the bike path, 4th Street parking lot and boat launch parking area will be cleared. Clean up of the ends of dead end streets (no outlet) will only be done on weekdays during regular working hours.

Please view the snow removal plan for the street map and village snow removal quadrant information.

During the plowing process, snow is pushed to the side of the road, and it may be deposited at the end of your driveway or sidewalk, dependent on the level of accumulation in the street. Property owners are responsible for clearing the driveway and sidewalk after this has occurred. Please be aware that under the Village Civil and Zoning codes, residents are prohibited from shoveling snow back onto the street while cleaning their sidewalks and driveways, as this creates unsafe road conditions for motorists. Enforcement of sidewalk clearing begins 24 hours after residential street plowing is completed, or 24 hours after significant snow accumulation.

The Village has two plow trucks, and unfortunately, both DPW vehicles experienced major mechanical failure this winter, causing delays in snow removal that we all felt this winter. The Village attempted, however was unable, to obtain temporary vehicles as our neighboring municipalities' vehicles were entirely unavailable due to the increased snowfall this year.

The Village of Fruitport Council thanks all residents for their patience, compliance and feedback about snow removal services. We are currently revising our snow removal plan and need your help to improve the process. If you have any feedback or insight about your street conditions this winter, please contact us at (231) 865-3577 or send us an email at thevillageoffruitport@gmail.com.



Icy and snowy roads made for hazardous driving. Here is a truck that could not make it up the hill on Third Avenue by the lake in downtown Fruitport last winter. Needless to say, the sidewalks hadn't been cleared yet either.

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Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Boys & Girls Basketball Skills CAMP

WHO MAY ATTEND: Any Girl or Boy, Grades 2nd - 12th (2014 - 2015 School Year)

DATES: June 9th - 12th, 2014 (MONDAY - THURSDAY)

LOCATION: Calvary Christian Schools (5873 Kendra Rd. Fruitport)

TIMES: 9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM - GIRLS 2nd - 7th Grades (2014 - 15)

11:30AM TO 1:30PM - GIRLS 8th - 12th Grades (2014 - 15)

1:30PM TO 3:30PM - BOYS 2nd - 7th Grades (2014 - 15)

3:30pPM TO 5:30PM - BOYS 8th - 12th Grades (2014 - 15)

COST: \$50

Players will be divided in age level groups for competition

CAMP FEATURES:

- Regulation size & weight basketball for each camper • New CCS Basketball T-Shirt
- Learning fundamentals (dribbling, passing, shooting etc.) • Competitive Games (scrinnages)
- Guest Speakers • Varsity Players will be camp assistants for the younger girls and boys which is always fun for the younger campers • Camp run by Brad Richards, current CCS Varsity coach, Multiple Time All Area Coach of the Year, 2002 State of Michigan Coach of the Year AP.

*****PLEASE REGISTER BY Wednesday, May 28th, 2014*****

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