

News from Avon Township

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Perhaps my least favorite job as Clerk is to send letters to residents reprimanding them. It makes me feel a little like a parent who has caught a naughty child misbehaving.

Unfortunately, a few residents have recently been naughty. That is, they have been plowing snow across a Township road, or blowing snow from their property onto a Township road. Both of these activities are not only naughty, but illegal.

According to Minnesota Statute §160.2715, it is unlawful to deposit snow or ice on any road and to plow within the road right-of-way.

One of the reasons that plowing snow across a road is a problem is because it can leave ridges on the road. If these ridges freeze, the next time the snowplow passes, the blade could catch on the ridge and cause an accident.

Our drivers report that when the plow blade strikes these ridges they can feel the entire truck shift sideways, which as you might guess, is very unnerving. Our drivers are already contending with blowing snow, other vehicles, and assorted road obstacles, so we don't want to add yet another distraction and dangerous situation to their already difficult job.

I recently sent letters to residents who plowed snow across the road after a recent storm, and asked them to not do it. I suspect most of those who received a letter didn't realize the inherent danger of the practice nor did they know it was illegal. They were likely just in a hurry to plow their driveway and never even considered the consequences of plowing across and onto the road.

This was the second letter that I sent to a handful of our residents. Perhaps these individuals forgot about the first one. Hopefully, this second letter will serve as a permanent reminder.

Thanks to everyone for protecting the safety and well-being of our drivers, plows, and residents by not plowing across the road. We understand that it might take a little longer to clear your driveway, but it is far safer for everyone.

Thanks for contributing to a safer Avon Township. And, especially thanks for making my job easier by not having to reprimand any "naughty" residents.

Two final notes. It makes it infinitely easier for our drivers to clear the roads if they don't have to avoid obstacles like garbage cans. If possible, please bring in your empty garbage cans at your earliest convenience. Next month's meeting of the Planning Commission, February 26, will feature a program to thank John Merdan for his 13 years of service to the Town. We hope you can join us for it (as well as any Town meeting).