

News from Avon Township

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If you are like me, you rolled out of bed on the first Saturday of this month, looked out the window and were horrified at the sight of more than four inches of snow. No doubt about it – after my morning coffee I would have to clear the snow from our driveway. Though a daunting task, it's minor compared to what the Township needs to do after a storm.

The Township is responsible for keeping 44.5 miles of roads snow-free and safe for travel. That's a whopping 5,000 times more surface area than my driveway. Fortunately the Township is prepared to do it.

The Township owns three snowplows. Our red truck, a 96 Ford, usually plows the northern half of the Township while our Blue 102 Sterling does the south half. If you live on a cul-de-sac, we also have a pickup truck with a plow to clear snow from these tight areas.

On the same night that I was snug in bed, at 10:30 PM our Township person in charge of plowing filled his thermos with coffee and then headed to the Town Hall to fire up the 96 Ford to begin work.

Just like difficulty in deciding when to shovel your driveway, it's a challenge to know when to begin plowing. We typically begin when there are 3 – 3.5 inches on the ground. However, if the snow is predicted to stop soon, then we will wait until the storm is over.

It takes about 6 hours or so to plow the entire Township. The drivers follow prescribed routes that can be viewed on our website ([Inside/Roads](#)).

If roads need to be salted and sanded, we usually do this on a second trip around the Township. We like to keep the trucks filled with salt while plowing to give them some extra weight for traction as they push the snow off the roads.

Among our biggest problems are obstacles parked in the road right-of-way, which is 33 feet from the center of most Town roads. Not only are they a threat to passing motorists, but if the plow accidentally hits the object it could cause significant damage to both and it may injure our driver. If you have a vehicle or other object in right-of-way, you have probably gotten a letter from me asking to remove it for safety.

Next month I will describe some Township policies related to plowing. In the meantime, I hope that you, like me, sleep easier on a snowy night knowing that our Township staff are taking great care of our roads.