



**Town of New Castle**  
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**Administration**  
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Dear Castle Valley Ranch Resident:

While last winter's early and frequent snowfall is only a distant memory, the Town and CVR HOA have been in discussions to consider changes to the town's snow removal plans. In order to make these changes meaningful we need the understanding and assistance of residents. For example, there are several things that can make a difference for drivers and walkers as we negotiate winter streets and sidewalks:

- **Shoveling sidewalks:** All through the year, many of us walk to school, to buses, for exercise, to run errands. In the winter walking is made unsafe, especially for those of us not steady on our feet, when sidewalks are not cleared of snow within a reasonable time after a snowfall. Clearing your sidewalk within 24 hours of a snowfall is both the responsible thing to do and respectful of your neighbors. In fact, in an effort to make walking safe in the winter time, the Town of New Castle requires that snow be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall. Of course some of our neighbors are elderly or otherwise limited in their abilities and perhaps neighbors helping neighbors can make snow removal more consistent.
- **Shoveling Snow Into the Street:** Have you ever driven down a street that had packed ice/snow mounds in the drive lane and the car goes up and down as it travels the street? Me too. Perhaps you thought (as I once did) that this was caused by inadequate snow plowing. What I learned is that much of the time it is caused by shoveling snow from a driveway or sidewalk into the street. Sometimes we do this because we think the next time a snowplow comes around it will take the snow down the street to someone else's curb. The reality is that typically the snowplow has been through the neighborhood earlier in the day and now snow that is shoveled into the street will be packed down by daily traffic and when the snowplow returns later in the day the snow is now an ice/snow mound that is impossible for the plow to move. While the town prohibits snow shoveling into the street it is really up to us as residents to make sure this does not happen. As a side note...I've been told that the nitrogen in snow is a valuable to lawns and landscaping. So shovel driveway and sidewalk snow onto your grass and it will be healthier in the spring!

- **Moving On-Street Snow:** Some residents have snow removal equipment and can clear the parking area in front of their house by creating a large pile of snow at one end of their property. This is acceptable as long as we are careful not to impede driving sight lines by making the pile too tall, especially at intersections.
- **Neighborhood On-Street Snow Storage:** Public streets serve many purposes, including providing a location for underground utilities, parking, and snow storage. During the winter months, the parking lanes are used for snow storage in order to provide clear travel lanes for emergency vehicles, service vehicles, and residents. Snow in a residential neighborhood is typically plowed from the center of the street to both curbs, leaving a windrow of snow throughout the entire parking lane. In some locations, it may be possible for snow removal crews to pile the snow in the parking lane, rather than leaving a windrow. Please call the Public Works Department (984-0669) and leave a message if you would prefer the town pile snow in the parking lane in front of your residence. This approach will limit the available parking spaces while simultaneously improving curbside access.
- **Snow Routes:** As a pilot program for the winter of 2016/17 the Town will designate Buckthorn and Dragon Root as snow routes – these streets were chosen because they have been school bus routes in the past. Snow removal crews can do a much better job of clearing snow if they do not have to maneuver around parked vehicles. When a street is designated a snow route we ask that residents remove their cars from on-street parking spaces until the snow plow crews can clear the street. We know that this will be a burden to some people and we ask for voluntary compliance with this no-parking on-street request. The more voluntary participation we have the better the snow removal will be.

Sincerely,



Tom Baker  
Town Administrator