

It is time for seasonal reminders.

Salt Brine: If you see a tractor pulling a tank with a liquid spraying out, not to worry. It wasn't an equipment problem and nothing was leaking. The Public Works Department sprays streets and intersections with a salt brine solution as a pretreatment application before heavy snowfalls. We've found it quite successful in helping to clear the streets of snow and ice.

Plow Routes: Every snowfall is a little different, the timing of the snow or if it includes freezing rain will influence how or when the plow trucks are dispatched. In general, three plows will hit the main highways first; they go north up 213 then east on 14. Their next priority is to open the police department and the ambulance garage.

There is a second crew that will tend to start downtown, trying to clean it overnight when there are fewer parked cars or traffic to work around. Then the plows start working the side streets, first the through streets, then streets with less traffic and culs de sac. Later alleys and public parking lots will be plowed. Afterward, there may be some clean up plowing or opening corners at intersections.

Sidewalks: Property owners or occupants are required to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property. Sidewalks are to be cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall. When ice builds up that cannot be removed, it is to be sprinkled with sand or salt within 24 hours.

When a property owner or occupant fails to remove (or sprinkle) snow and ice within the 24 hour timeframe, the city's Public Works Department may perform the work. The city will bill the property owner for the work; if unpaid, the bill will be levied as an assessment against the property.

Hydrants: Residents are encouraged to dig out fire hydrants near their homes. Easy access from the street to and around the hydrant saves precious time for the fire department in an emergency.

Parking: Alternate-side parking is required on city streets from November 15 to April 15 between 1:00 am and 7:00 am. If parking overnight, please be careful of the date change at midnight. On even-numbered calendar days cars should park on the even-numbered side of the street. On odd-numbered calendar days, cars should park on the odd-numbered side of the street. Alternate-side parking does not apply to streets where parking is already limited to one side of the street or otherwise posted for no parking.

Any vehicle parked in violation of alternate-side restriction may be towed at the owner's expense. A parking citation may also be issued, and unpaid citations will result in a suspension of license plates.

Nomination Papers: The first day to circulate nomination papers for the spring election was December 1. Signed papers must be filed in the City Clerk's office by 5:00 pm,

January 3. Four two-year terms and one one-year for the city council, the two-year term for mayor, and the four-year term for municipal judge will be on the ballot.

Tax Bills: 2011 property tax bills, payable in 2012, should be mailed by mid December. City of Evansville taxes are collected by the Rock County Treasurer's office between the hours of 8 am - 5 pm, Monday – Friday, except holidays.

Full or first installment payments are due on or before January 31, 2012. Payment may be made by check or money order payable to the Rock County Treasurer and mailed to: PO Box 1508, Janesville, WI 53547. Please include the top portion of your tax bill with your payment. Please reference your parcel number on any correspondences. If you are requesting a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

You may claim the lottery and gaming credit for 2011 taxes, payable in 2012, if on January 1, 2011, you were the owner of the property and used that property as your primary residence. If you are eligible for a lottery credit and it does not appear on your tax statement, please contact the City Clerk's office at 882-2266 for an application.

Dog Licenses: All dogs over 5 months in age must be licensed. Licenses are \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs or \$15 for unaltered dogs. A \$5 late fee applies after March 31. Licenses are available at City Hall during regular business hours; a certificate of rabies vaccination is required. 2012 licenses are available starting December 15, 2011.

Discover Wisconsin DVDs: If you're looking for a local stocking stuffer, there are a very limited number of DVDs remaining of the Discover Wisconsin television show featuring Evansville for sale at City Hall.

City Offices Closed: City offices will be closed on Friday December 23, Monday December 26, and Monday January 2. Emergency and on-call numbers are 911 (fire, police, and ambulance), 882-2288 (water and light), and 295-1451 (public works).

Christmas Trees: The Public Works Department will collect Christmas trees the week of January 2, 2012, time and weather permitting. Trees should be placed on the terrace for pick-up. Trees must not be bagged or have any wire, tinsel, ornaments, or other foreign material on them.

Snowmobiles: There are miles of marked snowmobile trails and routes in Rock County and southern Wisconsin. Please enjoy them safely and responsibly. Last month the City Council designated the roadway on County Road M as a snowmobile route; cutting through Brown School Road and back alleys is not permitted.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, "The fines for violating the snowmobile laws range from \$125.90 to \$2,000. You could also face up to one year in jail. In addition, the courts may revoke your privilege to operate a snowmobile. The ultimate price for violating the rules is the negative effect on the image of all snowmobilers. Do the right thing...slow down...ride sober...and ride for life."