

Snow
removal

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-07

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BUCKINGHAM,
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REGULATING
MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS, FOOTPATHS, TRAILS
AND DAMAGE TO PUBLIC STREETS
AND PROVIDING PENALIES FOR VIOLATION**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the township of Buckingham, after public hearing, duly advertised and held, as follows:

§1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

- a. Person - natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or any other legal entity.
- b. Buckingham Township Trail System Plan - A plan indicating those paths or trails which are designated as part of the Buckingham Township Trail System, as kept on file and available for examination at the Buckingham Township Building, 4613 Hughesian Drive, Buckingham, Pennsylvania and adopted and incorporated as part of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors shall have the right to amend the Buckingham Township Trail System Plan, from time to time, by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

c. Sidewalk - that hard-surfaced area designed for pedestrian travel parallel to a street, between the street and the abutting property owner and not designated as part of the Buckingham Township Trail System on the Buckingham Township Trail System Plan.

d. Footpath - that hard-surfaced area designed for pedestrian travel or travel by bicycle or other non-motorized means, parallel to a street, between the street and the abutting property owner and not designated as part of the Buckingham Township Trail System on the Buckingham Township Trail System Plan.

e. Trail - that hard-surfaced area designed for pedestrian travel or travel by bicycle or other non-motorized means, parallel to a street, between the street and the abutting property owner and designated as part of the Buckingham Township Trail System on the Buckingham Township Trail System Plan

f. Street or Highway - the entire width between the boundary lines of a way that is publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

g. Vehicle - any self-propelled motorized vehicle licensed to travel upon the streets, roads and highways of the Township of Buckingham.

h. Winter Storm - precipitation in the form of sleet, ice, freezing rain or snow, or combination thereof, creating the need for snow or ice removal, salting or cindering operations, or creating hazardous driving conditions.

§2. OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS AND FOOTPATHS. Every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land fronting or abutting on a sidewalk or footpath, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, shall repair, maintain and keep free from all nuisances and obstructions the sidewalk or footpath abutting his property.

§3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS AND FOOTPATHS. Every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land fronting or abutting on a sidewalk or footpath, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, shall remove and clear away or cause to be removed or cleared away, snow and/or ice from a path of at least thirty inches (30") in width from so much of said sidewalk or footpath as is in front of or abuts on said building or lot of land.

A. Except as provided in subsection 2 hereof, snow and ice shall be removed from sidewalks and footpaths within twelve (12) hours-after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain. Provided, however, that snow or ice that has fallen or formed

after 6:00 P.M. of any evening may be removed no later than twelve (12) hours after daybreak of the following day.

B. In the event snow and/or ice on a sidewalk or footpath has become so hard that it cannot be removed without likelihood of damage to the sidewalk or footpath, the person charged with its removal shall, within the time mentioned in subsection A. hereof, place enough sand, salt or other abrasive on the sidewalk or footpath to make travel reasonably safe; and shall, as soon thereafter as weather permits, clear a path in said sidewalk or footpath of at least thirty inches (30") in width.

§4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS. A person in charge or control of any building or lot of land fronting or abutting on a trail, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise shall have no obligation to repair or maintain the trail or remove snow or ice therefrom as otherwise required for sidewalks and footpaths in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Ordinance. However, every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land fronting or abutting on a trail, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise shall keep the trail abutting his property free from all nuisances and obstructions.

§5. DEPOSITING OF SNOW AND ICE RESTRICTED. No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow or ice on or immediately next to a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk, footpath, trail, street or highway except that snow and ice may be piled by the Township of

Buckingham on public streets, highways and trails incident to the cleaning thereof or piled on curbs incident to the clearing of streets or highways.

§6. STREET PARKING PROHIBITED DURING SNOW REMOVAL PERIOD. No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street or highway; or its adjacent right-of-way within the boundaries of the Township during a winter storm or during the twelve (12) hour period following the cessation of precipitation or any other period when snow removal or plowing is being conducted.

§7. OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE TO TOWNSHIP STREETS, HIGHWAYS OR TRAILS CAUSED BY OBSTRUCTIONS AND/OR NUISANCES. Every person in charge or control of any building or lot of land fronting or abutting on a Township street, highway or trail, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, who obstructs such Township street, highway or trail or commits any nuisance thereon by felling trees, making fences, turning the street, highway, or trail, diverting water onto or in any other way causing damage to such street, highway or trail and does not, on notice given by the Board of Supervisors, immediately remove the obstruction or nuisance and repair the damages done to the street, highway or trail commits a summary offense. Nothing in this section shall debar a prosecution for any nuisance as in case of misdemeanor at common law. The cost of any improvements made by the Board of Supervisors to Township streets,

highways or trails necessitated by the obstruction or nuisance caused by an abutting landowner shall be assessed against such abutting landowner. In no instance shall any abutting landowner be liable for the cost of improvements in an amount greater than fifteen percent of the assessed valuation of the abutting property.

§8. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any person who or which shall violate the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon summary conviction before a District Justice, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), plus the costs of prosecution. In default of payment of the fine, such person, the members of such partnership or the officers of such corporation shall be sentenced to undergo imprisonment in the Bucks County Prison for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days. Each day that a violation is continued shall constitute a separate offense. All fines collected for the violation of this Ordinance shall be to and for the use of the Township of Buckingham.

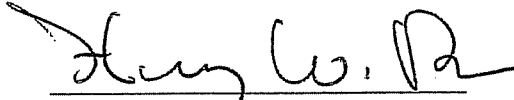
§9. REPEALER. Buckingham Township Ordinance 94-02 enacted February 23rd, 1994 is hereby expressly repealed.

§10. SEVERABILITY. If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Buckingham Board of Supervisors that this Ordinance would have been

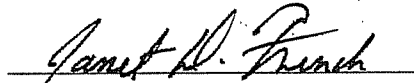
adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause,
section or part thereof not been included herein.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED THIS 13th day of August, 2003.

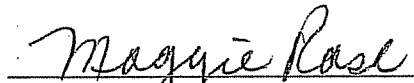
**BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



Henry W. Rowan, Chairman



Janet D. French



Maggie Rash

ATTEST:



Raymond A. Stepnoski,
Township Manager

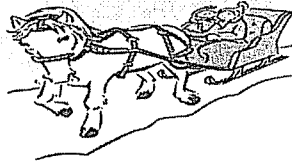
SNOW / ICE REMOVAL

Winter Storm Ordinance [Click here to view Ordinance 2003-07](#)



1. Street parking is prohibited during a winter storm or during the 12-hour period following the cessation of precipitation or any other period when snow removal or plowing is being conducted.
2. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow or ice within 12 hours of a storm. If snow or ice has formed after 6:00 p.m. sidewalks must be cleared within 12 hours after daybreak. No snow shall be deposited on a fire hydrant, sidewalk or roadway. Cleared path must be at least 30" wide.
3. Please remove trash cans from the side of the road and place them in the driveway.

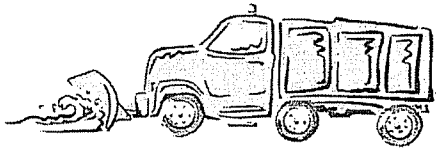
Thank you for your cooperation! If you are experiencing any problems or wish to report violations of this Ordinance, please call the Buckingham Township Police Department at 215-794-8813.



The Township is not responsible for any damage caused by snow moving equipment, including mailbox damage, during any plowing operations before, during or after snowstorms.

Residents living in developments that do not have curbing are urged to place stakes along their property frontage (between road surface and laws) to help aid plowing efforts during the upcoming winter. This will help to avoid lawn damage.

The Township will plow curb to curb in Dedicated Developments (where cars are removed from the road). It is the homeowner's responsibility to be sure the area in front of your mailbox is clear for your mail carrier to deliver your mail.



Private Snow Plowing

Any private snow plowers, when cleaning driveways, **MUST CLEAN THE ROADWAY ALSO.** If snow is left and causes an accident, homeowners could be held liable.

If you wish to report violations of this Ordinance, please call the Buckingham Township Police Department at 215-794-8813.

The Township appreciates your cooperation and helpfulness.

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURE

As winter is upon us, the Township is making preparations to assure adequate snow removal efforts from Township dedicated roads. The following is the general snow and ice removal policy for the Township. Of course, our work policy is adjusted to address unique situations or state of emergency designations. In order for us to serve you better, we need your cooperation with snow removal and your observation of all Township ordinances. We ask you to review our policy and the additional information provided here.

For the winter storms, the Township is divided into sections with a truck or contractor assigned to each section. The priority of the Township is to make the roads under its jurisdiction safe for the traveling public. The priority of each vehicle is to open each street in its assigned area. At the state of each storm, all the trucks are loaded with salt and sent out to its assigned area with instructions to salt the intersections, hills, and curved areas first, and then salt all areas. For the initial plowing sequence, the drivers are instructed to make one pass in each direction on the street and one pass in and out in cul-de-sacs (up the middle).

Buckingham has over 89 miles of road and approximately 90 cul-de-sacs and additional roads added yearly. Our first objective is to make each road passable. After that has been achieved, we will commence pushing back roads edge to edge. This may not be started until the following day because the employees will be send home to rest after spending long grueling hours working in the initial plowing effort. Employees kept on site will be there only for emergency response.

Here are ways for you to assist with the snow removal efforts:

Vehicle parking – If possible, park off the roadway and in your driveway. On street parking prohibits our trucks from clearing the streets. On cul-de-sacs, it makes snow removal almost impossible. Add to that the fact that the snow will be pushed onto your parked car and you will see the necessity to clear the streets.

Driveways - The township often receives complaints with regards to having recently shoveled driveway entrances plowed in. Some suggestions for shoveling driveways are:

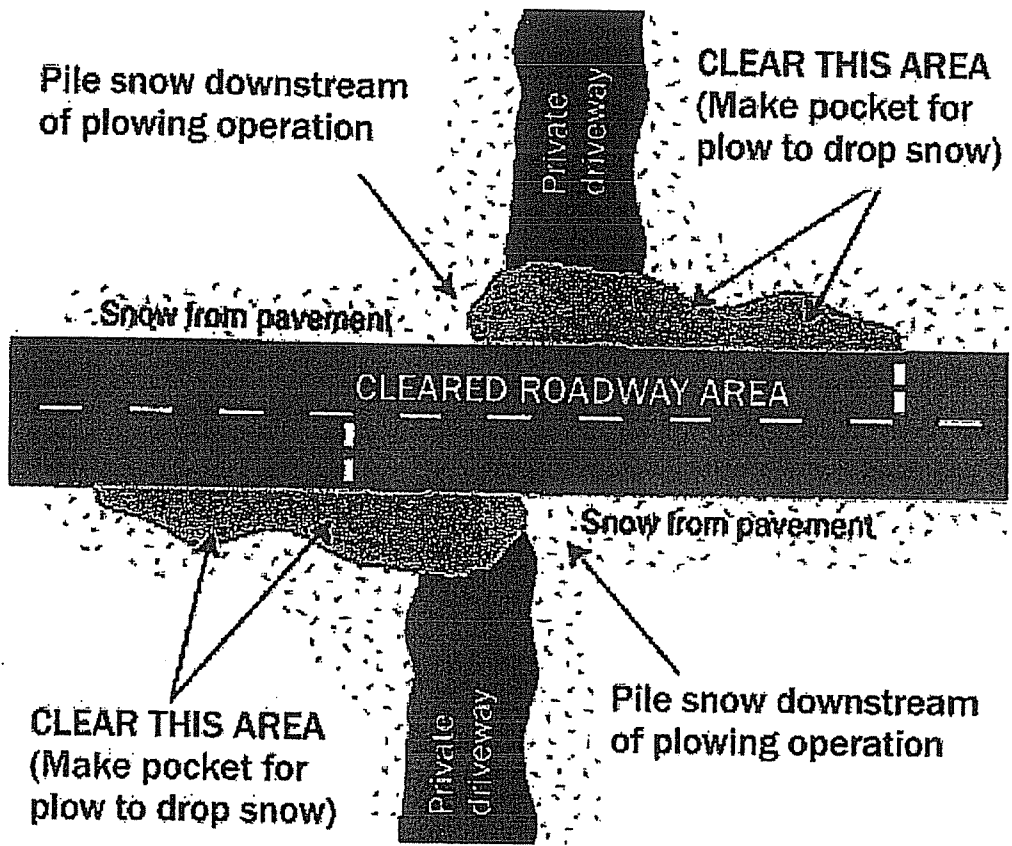
1. Wait until all plowing operations have ceased before shoveling your driveway.
2. When shoveling out your driveway, leave the last 6 feet unshoveled until plowing operations on your street are completed.
3. When shoveling your driveway, the following diagram will show the best way to do it and avoid having the plow cast mounds of snow back across it.

General Removal of Snow - Do not throw or blow the snow that you remove from your driveway or sidewalk back into the street. This slows the snow removal process and you could be subject to a fine, as well as being liable for causing any accidents that should occur.

To review the ordinances on snow removal, visit Buckinghampa.org and click on Code. The township ordinances are listed for your information.

Above all, please be patient. The skilled employees need time to do their job in plowing the streets. Be aware that your mailbox is in the right-of-way and may suffer under the tremendous weight of piled snow. To minimize this type of damage, check to see your box is secure and does not have an excessive overhang into the street.

If there is an immediate or urgent problem, you can contact the Township and leave your name, telephone number, and the nature of your problem. The Public Works Department will respond in as timely and efficiently as possible to rectify the situation. If there is an emergency problem for the police or fire company, dial 9-1-1.



COURTESY OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION