



NEWS FROM PLAINFIELD, JANUARY 2013

## DPW Busy Between Blizzard and Flooding

In two and a half weeks, Department of Public Works employees went from dealing with blizzard conditions to dealing with floods produced by melting snow and heavy rain.

"It's been a very busy time," Jason Castetter, Superintendent of Public Works, told the Town Council during its meeting on January 14.

The blizzard occurred on December 26. DPW employees started around 4:00 in the morning pre-treating the roads. They worked sixteen hours trying to keep main routes and secondary routes open. "By 5:00 in the evening the Town's roads were in pretty good shape," Castetter reported. The next day DPW crews were able to complete the task of widening neighborhood roads and cul-de-sacs.

A short couple of weeks later warmer temperatures and rain had melted the snow, and then a heavy (continued on back)



Hendricks County crews work to dislodge the logjam under the White Lick Creek bridge at Hadley Road.

## Understanding Snow Removal

In order, priorities are:

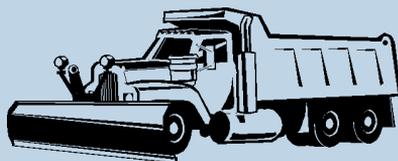
- 1) Primary routes
- 2) Secondary routes
- 3) Neighborhoods
- 4) Cul-de-sacs

DPW's goal is to get drivers access. In neighborhoods, they will make one pass down and back so people have a way in and out. As manpower and storm severity allow, they will get back in to widen the neighborhoods streets and cul-de-sacs, but it may not happen until the next day.

"Please be patient when clearing snow from the end of your driveway," Castetter asks. "It will save you effort and aggravation if you can wait until after the snowplow driver has finished widening the street."

### Tips:

- 1) Shovel snow from your driveway to the right side so the snowplow carries the snow down the street and not back in front of your driveway (if you shovel before the street is finished).
- 2) If you use a snow blower, don't blow the snow back out into the street. The snow may refreeze, making it difficult for the plow driver to remove.
- 3) If you have a storm drain in front of your home, you can help DPW by keeping it clear in non-emergency times. That will help prevent flooding when emergencies do come.



downpour began. Flooding became the next problem that had to be dealt with.

“Between the rain and snow melt, White Lick Creek was on the rise,” Castetter said. “Then the 3 ½ inches of rain we got Saturday into Sunday caused the creek to crest over the banks in some areas. The worst place was flooding along South Center Street down by the Islamic Society of North America center.”

Castetter said he noticed a significant logjam under the bridge at Hadley Road was causing water in White Lick Creek to back up into Crystal Bay. With the bay’s water level rising higher and higher, he emailed the county for help removing the logjam. “They responded and were there by 11,” he said. “They dislodged some of the trees and relieved the upstream pressure. The water level in Crystal Bay dropped dramatically.” Once the rain event was over, DPW began the clean-up process.

Other issues crews dealt with during the storm were handling high level lift station alarms and clearing blocked storm water inlets.

## **New Guilford Township Rates at Rec Center**

The Town of Plainfield and Guilford Township signed an agreement for 2013 to cooperate on park development issues for the purpose of creating a healthy community. As a part of the broad agreement, there are now reduced Guilford Township rates available at the Recreation & Aquatic Center for people who live in Guilford Township but not in the Town. You can find out more information on the Town’s website, Guilford Township’s website, or at the front desk of the rec center.

## **Summer Sewer Rates Available to Residents**

Residents who tend to use a lot of water during the summer may want to take advantage of summer sewer rates which will be available for five months in the summer starting with the May meter read and billed on the June bill. For a non-refundable \$50 application fee, residents may apply for the special rate at the Town Hall, 206 West Main Street. The application form is also available online at the Town’s website under the Utility Billing department.

The special rate, an unmetered \$29.01/month, applies to single-family residential sewer service only. It does not apply to sewer service for any premises used wholly or in part as commercial, industrial, or multi-family (two units or more) property.

For 2013 the summer sewage rate will begin with the June billing and end with the October billing. Residents should sign up as soon as possible. The deadline is May 15. Those signing up after the deadline will pay a \$10 penalty. Summer sewer rates paid after May 15 will commence with the next bill cycle after the payment is received. Summer sewer rates are not retroactive.

“The goal of the program is to provide relief for single family residential customers who sprinkle their lawns,” said Kent McPhail, a Town Council member who acts as the liaison between the Council and the Sewer Department.

Questions may be directed to Lois Burgner, Utility Billing Director, at 317-837-0000.

## **Pay Your Water Bill On-Line**

You can now pay your water bill on-line at the Town’s website.

Go to ‘Utility Billing’ under Departments, select ‘Click Here to Pay On-Line,’ and follow the instructions. A link is also provided to our YouTube video tutorial.