



A Message to Our Citizens



Town of Front Royal

December, January, February

As we approach the Winter Season, the Town of Front Royal would like to take this opportunity to suggest ways to help you get through this time more efficiently and easily, by controlling your utility bill and updating you on the snow removal process during a snow event. We also are notifying you of holiday closings this season, along with trash/recycling pickups. This newsletter is an effort to connect with you, a citizen of the Town of Front Royal. We appreciate any comments you may have with regard to this outreach.

- Steven M. Burke, Interim Town Manager

WAYS TO CONTROL YOUR UTILITY BILL Tips found: U.S. Department of Energy Website & Town's Energy Resources Dept

- Set the thermostat comfortably low. Install a programmable thermostat that is compatible with your heating system. Lower the thermostat on the hot water heater to 120 °. Clean/replace filters on heating units once a month; ensure that registers, baseboard heaters & radiators are cleaned and not blocked by draperies, furniture or carpeting. With heat pumps sometimes the electric resistance heating may come on which is more expensive to use. Please check with your heat pump dealer to understand how heat pumps work in extremely cold weather. The heat pump's outside unit must be free of snow/debris to work properly & efficiently.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) and take advantage of daylight. Turn off lights when not in use—try dimmers/timers.
- Turn off electronics when not in use. Power strips make this routine easier. Standby mode still uses several watts of power.
- Air dry dishes, instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle; and only wash full loads.
- Take short showers instead of baths and wash only full loads of clothes.
- Leaking toilets & faucets will increase water usage.
- Place temporary plastic sheeting on the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Remember, the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration of cold air.
- Close fireplace dampers tightly, unless the fireplace is being used.
- Check insulation levels in attic, exterior and basement walls, ceilings, floors and crawl spaces. Only 20% of homes built before 1980 were well insulated. Properly seal around window air condition units.
- Check for holes/cracks around walls, ceilings, windows, ducts, doors, lights, light switches and electrical outlets that leak air.
- Ceiling fan motors should be reversed to blow air slowly upward in winter. This helps disperse the warm air that tends to gather near ceilings, distributing it more evenly throughout the room.
- Hang heavy insulated draperies to avoid drafts. Open them on a sunny day to help heat your home.
- Use solar-powered outdoor lighting.

Be careful to read the disposal instructions of CFL lights or broken lights

The Front Royal Business Offices will be CLOSED:

December 23 and December 24, 2010 (Christmas Eve/Christmas) January 17, 2011 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

December 31, 2010 (New Year's Day) February 21, 2011 (President's Day)

Trash/Recycling Pickup for Christmas : Thurs. (12/23) will be Wed. (12/22) & Fri. (12/24) will be Tues. (12/21)

Trash/Recycling for the other holidays will be the Wednesday of that week.

Wednesday Yard Waste Pickup will end January 12, 2011 and begin again March 16, 2011



Energy Audits are available online at www.frontroyalva.com on home page, Quick Links, Online Energy Audit or call The Town of Front Royal Energy Resource Department at (540)635-3027

SNOW REMOVAL



The Town of Front Royal Department of Public Works is committed to providing citizens with efficient and thorough snow management service. Public Works is responsible for maintaining 140 lane miles of roads. The Department has (22) staff members available to operate up to (8) dump trucks fitted with salt spreaders and plows, (7) pick-up trucks fitted with plows and (4) heavy equipment vehicles outfitted with front buckets. During snow events crews operate in 12-hour shifts to plow and spread salt. The Town is divided into (6) sections to facilitate snow removal, with (1) dump truck fitted with a plow and salt spreader assigned to each section. Additional, smaller trucks with plows assist as necessary.

The Town's Police Department notifies Public Works when snow/ice begin to accumulate on the roads. Snow removal consists of spreading salt as soon as conditions warrant. Plowing shall not be initiated until approximately (2) inches of snow have accumulated. Due to the presence of manholes and water valve covers in the road, plows are equipped with a rubber cap. This prevents plowing to bare pavement.

Snow removal focuses on primary arterial roads first (Royal Avenue, Commerce Avenue, Shenandoah Avenue). After treating the arterials, crews begin entering residential areas.

If crews must remove snow, snow is placed on the street within the Town right-of-way. Crews attempt to pile snow in locations that will not impair sight distance at intersections. Following snow events, crews will return to remove piles to an off-site location.

Pushing snow into driveways is unavoidable. The driver's main goal is to clear the street for emergency vehicles and vehicular traffic. As the plows pass driveways, some snow will roll off the edge of the side, discharging into the driveway, particularly if it has been cleared. In very heavy snow, plows make 4—6 passes to clear snow.

If a Town plow creates any damage to your property (mailbox, vehicle) please call the Department of Human Resources at (540)635-3929 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

CITIZENS ASSISTANCE is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED:

- Removal of snow from driveways and sidewalks adjacent to your property.
- If possible, find off-street parking for your vehicles to allow crews to accomplish removal from the complete street width.
- When shoveling the portion of the driveway closest to the street, push the snow to the right (as you face street), so that it will be downstream when the plow comes by. If you hire someone to plow/shovel the driveway, please wait until the Town plows have made at least the first pass.
- Do not push snow into the street as it creates a hazard to motorists. Icy areas may develop that could affect access to the street for you and your neighbors. You could be liable for any accidents caused by this act.
- Please respect the administrative staff that answers your calls as they do not have the ability to divert crews to your concern. Sometimes Town crews work long days and nights to effectively remove snow from the roads and attempt to respond as quickly as possible to the many calls that come into the office. Please allow extra time for their response before calling the Department again. All calls should be directed to the Department of Public Works at (540)635-7819 between 7:00am and 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. After hours should be directed to the Front Royal Police Department at (540)635-2111 or in an emergency 9-1-1.



Water Breaks can occur during the winter quite frequently as temperatures fluctuate sometimes rather drastically. We ask for your patience as Town crews repair the breaks as quickly as possible.



Christmas Trees will be picked up beginning every Wednesday, December 29—January 12, 2011. They must be placed at curb line. Employees will not pick up on private property. All ornaments, tinsel and stands must be removed. Artificial and live trees with root balls will not be accepted.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A SAFE NEW YEAR!!

