



Randolph Township
The Randolph Review

The Randolph Review
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The Randolph Review is published on a quarterly basis for the purpose of providing useful and interesting information to township residents. Citizens' input, suggestions and comments are welcome.

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The original Christmas Box Angel in Salt Lake City, Utah



Christmas Box Angel

The trustees and Grace Geiger are working on getting a Christmas Box Angel for the Randolph Cemetery.

The Angel Monument was introduced in the best-selling book "The Christmas Box," by Richard Paul Evans. In the book, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. Although Evans' book is mostly fiction, the angel monument purportedly once existed in a cemetery in Salt Lake City, but reportedly had been destroyed.

A new angel statue was commissioned by Evans in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel monument

as a place to mourn and heal.

Since its dedication, the new statue in Salt Lake City has annually attracted thousands of visitors.

It would be a place for anyone who has lost a child of any age to meet and have a candlelight service on the second Sunday in December as many do around the country.

On December 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Randolph United Methodist Church a "Blue Christmas Service" will be held for anyone grieving during the holidays.

For more information call Grace at 330 877-2095.



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www.randolphtownshipohio.gov

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Santa Claus

"Invented" by Thomas Nast

Thomas Nast "invented" the image popularly recognized as Santa Claus. Nast first drew Santa Claus for the 1862 Christmas season *Harper's Weekly* cover and center-fold illustration to memorialize the family sacrifices of the Union during the early and, for the north, darkest days of the Civil War.

Nast's Santa appeared as a kindly figure representing Christmas, the holiday celebrating the birth of Christ. His use of Santa Claus was melancholy, sad for the faltering Union war effort in which Nast so fervently believed, and sad for the separation of soldiers and families.

When Nast created his image of Santa Claus he was drawing on his native German tradition of Saint Nicholas, a fourth century bishop known for his kindness and generosity. In the German Christian tradition December 6 was (and is) Saint Nicholas day, a festival day honoring Saint Nicholas and a day of gift giving.

Nast combined this tradition of Saint Nicholas with other German folk traditions of elves to draw his Santa in 1862. The claim that Nast "invented" Santa Claus in 1862 is thus accurate, but the assertion overlooks the centuries-long antecedents to his invention. Santa Claus thrived thereafter in American culture both Christian and secular.

During the Civil War, Christmas was a traditional festival celebration in the United States, although not yet a holiday. In Nast's time Christmas was not a day when offices or factories closed; but the development of Christmas as a holiday and the use of Santa Claus as a secular symbol of gift giving removed from its Christian antecedents occurred during Nast's lifetime. The modern American celebration of Christmas, with its commercialized gift exchanges, developed in cities, led by New York, after 1880.

Nast's images of Santa Claus were so popular that they



were collected and reprinted in a book published in 1890.

"Santa Claus in Camp," *Harper's Weekly*, January 3, 1863, cover, p.8-9.

Like fire protection, snow removal is a Randolph Township service that can be critical to the health and safety of township citizens. The Township crews work around the clock to keep your streets safe for you. In an effort to continually improve Township snow removal service, the Road Department wants you to know more about its efforts and to answer your most frequently asked questions about snow removal.

1. When does snow removal begin?

When the Road Department receives word from its weather forecasts that a storm is on the way, the crews begin preparation, so that they may be on the streets as soon as possible. Before snow and ice make driving conditions hazardous, Township crews will be on the road spreading salt on the snow emergency routes and problem streets. When approximately 2" of snow has accumulated, the crews will begin to plow the streets.

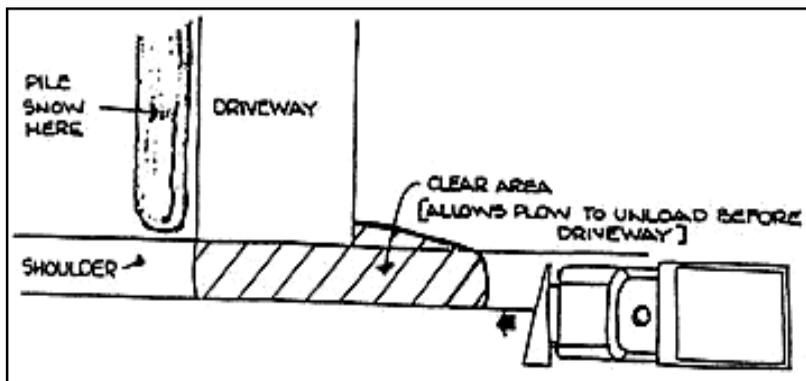
2. Should we move our cars from the street?

When a storm is forecast, move vehicles to off-street parking when possible. Parked cars can be both a hazard and hindrance to snow removal efforts.

6. What about driveways and sidewalks?

When cleaning your street, the crews have no place to push the snow except to the curb. This creates the unavoidable problem of already cleaned sidewalks and driveways being covered with snow. The best solution to avoid this situation is to wait until the streets have been cleared before

cleaning driveways and sidewalks. Remember--do not shovel snow from driveways into the roadway. Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for the actions of anyone they may hire for snow removal. The accompanying diagram shows how to clear snow from your property. If cleared properly, the plow blade has a chance to "unload" its build up of snow before passing your driveway.



7. What if my mailbox becomes covered with snow?

Your mailbox and the access to it for the U. S. Postal Service is the responsibility of the resident. Again, because the crews have no place to put the snow, curbside mailboxes may become blocked. Heavy snow coming off the plow may damage mailboxes. This is not intentional, but does occasionally happen. Please make sure your mailbox is sturdy and in good repair. The Township will not be responsible for repairs to mailboxes, fences or shrubs placed within the legally defined rights-of-ways of its roads, unless they are actually struck by the snow removal vehicle.

8. My lawn or landscaping was damaged by the snowplow, what should I do?

As with any objects that are placed within the legal road right of way by the property owner, the Township will not be responsible for correction or replacement if so damaged during the course of snow removal. The individual property owner is responsible for marking their lawn edge with a reflective type stake or marker.

Your Township snow removal personnel are responsible for over 32

miles of roadway. Our truck operators are human, and during a storm they work long hours trying to do their best for the benefit of all. Please do not abuse them.

Snow Driving

Seasonal Check: Tires should have good tread in front or snow tread on rear wheel drive vehicles.

Other items to check include: Heater/defroster operating properly, winter weight (thinner) oil used, anti-freeze good to minus 30 degrees F, battery charged, water hoses tight, windshield wiper and washer working, brakes adjusted and exhaust leak free.

Keep handy: Sand, rags or mats for traction, small shovel, ice scraper/snow brush and flashlight

On the road: Start slowly and never spin wheels to maintain traction. Follow vehicles at a greater distance. Please read your vehicle owner's manual to determine correct braking procedures for operating on snow and ice covered roadways. If rear skids, release accelerator and steer front of car in direction of rear skid, then straighten wheels as car straightens out. Never over steer on curves or skids, and do not apply your brakes if you do skid. Watch for icy patches in shaded areas or under overpasses. Drive at moderate speeds. When approaching any snow removal vehicle (truck, grader, loader) stay back 300 feet and yield the right of way.

Snow Shoveling Tips

A little snow shoveling advice for residents is not to throw the snow at the end of your driveway toward the path of the snowplow. Your shoveled pile of snow will just get pushed back into your driveway. If you put your snow in the opposite side of the driveway, the snowplow will push it away. It is illegal to put your driveway snow into the street. The motor vehicle code states that no obstruction of any kind can be put into the roadway.

When citizens shovel their snow into the street after we plow, it is like we were never there. Also, the snow pushed into the street gets pounded down by traffic, freezing and causing a safety hazard because it is like hitting a pothole. If you hire contractors to clear your driveway, make sure they do not push the snow into the street or onto the other side of the street.

Snowplow operators do notice, however, that many residents do really good jobs removing snow from their driveways and clearing around their mailboxes. After spending long hours salting and plowing, it's nice for the snowplow operator to see a person

wave or say hello.

Snow

The word snow in a National Weather Service forecast, without a qualifying word such as occasional or intermittent, means that the fall of snow is of a steady nature and will probably continue for several hours without letup.

Snow flurries are defined as snow falling for short durations at intermittent periods; however, snowfall during the flurries may reduce visibility to an eighth of a mile or less. Accumulations from snow flurries are generally small.

Snow squalls are brief, intense falls of snow and are comparable to summer rain showers. They are accompanied by gusty surface winds.

Blowing and drifting snow generally occurs together and results from strong winds and falling snow or loose snow on the ground.

Blowing snow is defined as snow lifted from the surface by the wind and blown about to a degree that horizontal visibility is greatly reduced.

Drifting snow is used in forecasts to indicate that strong winds will blow falling snow or loose snow on the ground into significant drifts. In the northern plains, the combination of blowing and drifting snow, after a substantial snowfall has ended, is often referred to as a ground blizzard.

Blizzards are the most dramatic and perilous of all winter storms, characterized by strong winds bearing large amounts of snow. Most of the snow accompanying a blizzard is in the form of fine, powdery particles of snow that are whipped in such great quantities that at times visibility is only a few yards.

Words of Warning

The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings for hazardous weather events.

Winter Storm Watch – Severe winter weather conditions may affect your area.

Winter Storm Warning – Severe winter weather conditions are imminent.

Ice Storm Warning – Significant, possibly damaging, ice accumulation is expected. Freezing rain or drizzle means precipitation is expected to freeze when it hits exposed surfaces.

Heavy Snow Warning – A snowfall of at least 4 inches in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected. Heavy snow can mean lesser amounts where winter storms are infrequent.

Blizzard Warning – Considerable falling and/or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

Severe Blizzard Warning – Considerable falling and/or blowing snow, winds of at least 45 miles per hour, and temperatures of 10 degrees F or lower are expected for several hours.

High Wind Warning – Winds of at least 40 miles per hour are expected to last for at least one hour. In some areas, this means strong gusty winds occurring in shorter time periods.

HAVE A SAFE WINTER

