



## **Forest Lakes NEWS**

**Your E-Blast Information Station for**  
News Flashes—Reports—Updates  
Events—Newsletters — Announcements

*January 29, 2021*

### **TODAY'S CONTENTS**

**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY**  
**CLASSROOM TIME - ROADS AND SNOWPLOWING!!!!**  
**PHOTO REQUESTS FROM THE EDITOR**

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### **WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY**

Expect snow showers to develop by midday Friday, with a period of heavy and steadier snowfall in the mid-afternoon until the early evening hours. Snow will become showery again in the mid-evening, before tapering slowly off early Saturday morning. Expect general accumulations of 4 to 8 inches above 6000 feet, with 1 to 4 inches from 4500-5000 feet.

#### ***WHEN...***

From 11 AM Friday to 5 AM MST Saturday.

#### ***WHERE...***

Areas above 6000 feet near Forest Lakes, Heber-Overgaard, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low and Alpine.

#### ***IMPACTS...***

South-southwest winds of 20 to 35 mph will cause areas of blowing and drifting snow, with near-zero visibility at times. Expect dangerous driving conditions.

#### ***SNOW FORECAST...***

Forest Lakes - 4 to 8 inches  
Heber-Overgaard - 1 to 3 inches  
Pinetop-Lakeside - 3 to 5 inches  
Show Low - 2 to 4 inches  
Alpine - 2 to 4 inches

**PEOPLE WHO CAN CLEAN YOUR DRIVEWAY (in Alphabetical Order)**

Scooter Bennett ----- 602-526-0485

Eddie Riddle ----- 928-535-4435

John Skeldon ----- 602-999-2663

Riley Ward ----- 575-214-0008

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## **CLASSROOM TIME**

### **ROADS AND SNOWPLOWING!!!!**

**Written by Sheriff's Deputy Rob McKeever**



I know there are a lot of frustrated homeowners out there when it comes to snow and snow in their driveways, so I thought I would take a few minutes to explain why and how things are done.

I know there are many new homeowners this year who may not have experienced winter storms. So hopefully this will help.

#### **DURING A STORM**

Here is how it really works during a storm . It doesn't matter if it's a 6' or 48' storm. During a storm the plow's first priority is to open and keep predetermined roads open. These include main arterial roads, roads that full time residents live on, and school bus routes. They are kept open as emergency personnel response is the top priority. These roads are normally only kept to a single lane during a storm.

If an emergency call does come in on a road that is considered a secondary road a plow will respond in front of emergency crews of necessary.

I'm going to try be as nice and politically correct as I can. As I said before, during a storm the plows priority is emergency response, not to make sure someone's road is plowed because they want to leave during a storm. Storms are generally predicted 10 to 15 days in advance. If you see the need to come up during a storm you should be prepared to stay the storm out. I can tell you; I personally keep a 2 weeks supply of food and fuel because there have been times we have been snowed in that long.

#### **AFTER THE STORM**

Once a storm is over the plows start opening or plowing the secondary roads; these include all roads that do not have full time residents on them. This could take SEVERAL DAYS to do as there is a little over 30 miles of roadways inside the subdivision. This is not an easy task as we only have one Road grader, and a Front end loader with two operators.

Many people look at the heavy equipment and think they can or should be able to move snow off the roadways with a single pass. That's not the case. They are limited to how much they can push with a single pas; so what happens is one road could see 3 or 4 passes by the grader before its wide enough for two vehicles to safety travel down.

What does this mean? It means your driveway could be plowed in several times before the road is finished.

I see many complaints about snow in people's driveways and people asking why can't they

skip my driveway. If you operate heavy equipment you will know that the only way to remove material from roadway is to move a blade forward or backwards, which shifts the direction of material either left or right, depending which direction you're going. So...if they move the blade away from your driveway it means your neighbors across the road gets double the snow. How fair is that???

An operator can't stop at every driveway and pick up the plow just so a driveway is not blocked. Two reasons - it would probably take triple the time for roads to be open and every time he came to a driveway and had to lift the blade it would just leave the snow in the road which would be pointless and might as well leave the roads unplowed.

I have heard people say put it in the middle of the road. If you look at the berms on the side of the road now and imagine both sides piled together in the center of the roadways, we would all be stuck in the ditches. It's just not possible or safe.

Some people may think we are favoring full time residents over part time residents. That's not the case. We can only keep track of the full time residents. It's impossible to keep track of part time residents, so we have to prioritize them.

A simple suggestion to save yourself money and backaches!!!

1. Wait a few days after a storm before you rush up to your cabin, or immediately call someone to plow your driveway. This way the roads will be finished and you only have to plow your driveway once.
2. Confronting, yelling, or cussing at the plow operators will only land you in trouble with me ☹️. You may be mad and not like the fact your driveway is always full of snow but I promise taking it out on the operators will cost you a lot more than waiting a day or two to plow your driveway.

As always, I'm always happy to answer questions if you're confused or don't understand.  
[rmckeeper@coconino.az.gov](mailto:rmckeeper@coconino.az.gov)

*Thank you Robert for taking the time to educate/remind us.*

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**REMEMBER - DO NOT PARK ON ROADS**



*From the Editor.....*

## **SEND ME YOUR SNOW CREATIONS**

Snowfall earlier this week dropped over 36". Many seasonal residents planned ahead to be hunkered down and safe to enjoy the snowfall from inside the comfort of their cabin. With the week-end upon us, there will be many more residents planning to spend time at their cabin and play in the snow. It is truly a Winter Wonderland at this time! Please practice safety at all times.

With snow comes lots of creative snow art. If you'd care to share your creations with all of us, please send a picture to me at [judynelson717@gmail.com](mailto:judynelson717@gmail.com). Some time next week I will publish a special "Forest Lakes NEWS" edition with your pictures. I already know there is one particular famous person sitting in a chair with mittens and a mask! What have YOU created? Scenery pictures are also welcome. Thank you for sharing!

Forest Lakes NEWS Editor  
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**Ever wish you had kept past copies of a news email?** You can find them on the FLOA website at [www.floa.club](http://www.floa.club) and click on "Latest Email Blasts" on the left side bar Menu.

**Did you know?**

There are several websites with Forest Lakes information to check out! They are:

**FLOA Website:** [www.floa.club](http://www.floa.club)

**Fire District:** [www.flfdaz.com](http://www.flfdaz.com)

**Water District:** [www.fldwid.org](http://www.fldwid.org)

**General Forest Lakes information:** [www.forestlakesaz.com](http://www.forestlakesaz.com)

**Weather Station/Snow Stick**

Facebook Group Pages

[Forest Lakes Bulletin Board](#)

[Forest Lakes Community Social Spot](#)

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