

An Open Letter to the Residents of Clarendon From your Highway Superintendent

For your safety and well being during inclement weather, you should reduce your speed and drive according to the highway conditions. Winter driving conditions with icy and snow-covered roads require more driving care. If your vehicle becomes stranded, contact the Orleans County Sheriff's department at 589-5527 and they will notify the appropriate highway department.

SNOW REMOVAL – The law regarding the depositing of snow on highways, shoulders or ditches is as follows: “Section 1219 of the Vehicle & Traffic Law and Section 214 of the Highway Law of New York State specifically prohibits the placing or leaving of snow, ice or other substance upon any highway” (this includes pavement, shoulders and ditches). As a result should these practices occur, police agencies will be notified of such occurrence(s) with the intent that summonses will be issued to the responsible person or persons. **MAILBOXES** – During and after significant snow storm, highway departments in the course of plowing, receive phone calls regarding damage to mailboxes either from snow plows directly or from the force of snow being thrown by the plows. If such damage is indeed caused by snow removal, it is not done intentionally but is an unfortunate consequence of snow removal. It must be pointed out that there is no statutory or legal authority which grants a property owner or resident along a public highway any right to place a mailbox in a highway right-of-way; the mailbox is on town or county right of way as a courtesy to the postal service. Thus, the necessity of keeping the highway open conflicts with the individuals' reception of the mail, the latter must stand aside. The owner might even be compelled to remove the box under Highway Law #319. From past experience, we have found that plastic mail boxes do not withstand the abuse of snow from the plows and are not recommended. *As a courtesy, the Clarendon Highway Department will place a temporary box so that residents can receive mail if their box is damaged by the plow but we will not replace any fancy mailbox or post.* Mailbox posts with fancy supports are not recommended as they stick down under the box and give the wing plow something to get hold of. A box mounted directly on top of a treated 4 X 4 is best. **Posts should be placed fifteen (15) feet from the centerline of the road.** Please see illustrations. For further information, contact me at (585) 734-1302 or (585) 638-8547. *Thank you. Tracy Chalker, Highway Superintendent.*

