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STREET DEPARTMENT COMPLETING LEAF PICKUP AND PLANNING FOR WINTER OPERATIONS

City of Missoula Street Department crews are completing their leaf pickup work in Area 4 this week. Area 4 is the south/southwest portion of the city, south of South Avenue and Brooks Street/Highway 93 South. Pickup and sweeping have been delayed by snow and cold temperatures. Residents are asked to please continue parking on odd-numbered sides of streets on odd-numbered days and even-numbered sides on even-numbered days during daytime hours through Friday, Dec. 2, to help with pickup.

The Street Department will continue to take requests for pickup of leaf piles in all areas as long as weather and time permit. Please call 552-6360. Please avoid parking on or near leaf piles.

Following leaf pickup, winter is just around the corner. Following is a primer on winter operations:

The City of Missoula Street Division's Snow and Ice Control Plan sets procedures that balance the public need for safe streets with the available resources and air and water regulations. The Plan is developed on the premise that public need for safe streets is greater on higher-volume streets and at locations of stopping, turning, or starting movements.

The plan divides city streets into four categories. The categories are Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 3 and residential streets. The priorities are assigned on the basis of traffic volumes, steepness of hills, proximity of schools, access to businesses, public transit routes and logical grid patterns. The goal is to have all Priority 1, Priority 2, school and public transit routes plowed and deiced or well sanded by 7:30 a.m., before the morning rush hour traffic. This goal is contingent upon the amount of snow falling and when it stops. If the snow is falling heavily, this goal obviously cannot be met. However, the goal may be met for the morning following the end of heavy snowfall, depending on snow accumulation. The secondary goal is to have all remaining priority

streets plowed within three working days of the end of snowfall, depending on snow accumulation.

Of the total 311 miles of city streets, 74 miles (24%) are on Priority 1 routes. Priority 2 and 3 routes equal 106 miles (34%).

Plowing of residential streets may be done after all priority streets are completed and if an accumulation of four inches of snow remains. The Street Superintendent and the Public Works Director will evaluate street conditions and make a determination of when residential plowing will be done.

Effective removal and plowing of snow on city streets has to be a cooperative effort of both the Street Maintenance crews and residents. The City depends on the efforts of residents to remove the plowed berms in front of driveways, mailboxes or cars and to place their shoveled/plowed snow on their property and not in the streets. City ordinance prevents the shoveling of snow onto or against fire hydrants, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, roadway shoulders, curbs or gutters, handicap parking spaces, public transportation loading zones or space designated for emergency vehicle access. These cooperative efforts help keep streets safe for travel.

The City of Missoula recognizes that blocking driveways and plowing berms around parked cars is a burden for residents. Street crews prioritize their efforts according to the City Snow and Ice Control Plan. The City does not have the personnel or equipment to remove berms in front of vehicles or driveways.

Thanks to all Missoula residents for cooperation and help with the management of winter snow and ice. Please call Street Maintenance Superintendent Brian Hensel with any questions at 552-6361.

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To see this year's Snow and Ice Control Plan Priority Map, go here:
<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=625>