“City of Norfolk Streets Get Cleared Section by Section”

It may seem as if everyone else’s street gets cleared before yours does. City of Norfolk Operations Manager Jim Dooley reminds citizens that there is a planned rotation as to what street gets cleared when.

“After completion of the initial plowing routes which include the emergency snow routes and windrowing the downtown area, the snowplow operators begin clearing the residential areas which are divided into 10 different areas. The decision as to which area is plowed first is made by observing a rotation system. Some routes that get cleared first after one storm will get cleared later after the next snowfall. We ask that residents be patient as we get to their street in the rotation,” Dooley said.

The rotation sequence can be found at: www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/street/sequence_of_a_residential_plowing.htm

Dooley said the streets division is currently on Snow Rotation 5.

With Snow Rotation 5, it means in the B area of town (as listed on the snow plan), number 4 would be the first section cleared which is the area north of College View. The next snow plow operation will be Snow Rotation 6 and in Section B, the number 11 area will be cleared first and so on for each subsequent snow operation.

There are currently 13 snowplows, four front-end loaders, three small truck plows and two motor graders that are used to clear Norfolk streets. The City has also contracted with Porter Construction who will use an additional six trucks and a motor grader to help clear the streets.

“We have a staff of 20 that cover 144 miles of streets. It requires patience and cooperation from citizens to stay off the streets so we can get the job done as efficiently and safely as possible,” Dooley said.

Wynn Roberts, snow motor grader operator, started working in the downtown area before 4:00 am Wednesday morning, stopping only twice for 15 minute breaks. He said his job has been hampered by vehicles traveling in the area.
“I’ve had to wait or go around the block because there is a vehicle stuck in the middle of the street. Drivers shouldn’t have been out. Fortunately most people have been parking on the even side of the street which helps immensely,” Roberts said.

Roberts and the other 19 City snow removal staff will be working late tonight making sure every street has been gone over at least once then it’s home to sleep and back at it again early Thursday morning.

“We waited until 3:30 am Wednesday wehn the wind went down as anything you clear when it’s windy is blown shut again very quickly. It’s a lot of heavy snow that’s going to take a longer time than usual to clear away. We’re thankful for the citizens’ cooperation in helping to make it all go smoothly,” Dooley said.