As you read this in December, the City of Loveland has already benefited from a major new service throughout Loveland beginning this winter, when the city hit with a major snowfall; trash trucks with snowplows will clear the centers of residential streets.

Following a successful trial program last year, the City of Loveland is currently using City trash and recycling trucks equipped with heavy-duty snowplows. These garbage trucks, equipped to open up those residential streets, will begin working soon. When a big storm hits, the plows will be afforded the task of plowing a road that will then go the center—nothing to curb—of the residential streets. It’s important to remember residential street clearing is third priority. First priority is the city’s highways and main avenues—287, 34, 402, Taft, Willows, etc., Second priority is heavily used two-lane collector streets, schools, hospitals, police stations, Colorado State University, and important commercial/industrial businesses such as Coors, Intel, and General Electric. Third priority is Loveland’s other main streets such as 29th, 402 plus Loveland’s other important two-lane thoroughfares. This includes the major challenge.

It’s important to remember the major challenge.

The trash-truck plows will be called out only when the snowfall exceeds six inches deep, the weather forecast is poor and the higher priority streets are already passable.

First priority

Residential streets are already passable.

The last day, the Streets Division tried an experiment. They purchased a snowplow and mounted it to one trash truck. When the first big storm occurred, they tried it in one neighborhood. It worked. When the next big storms hit, they tried it again. It worked each time. So last spring, for less than one-third the cost of the bill for 2006-07, the City ordered more plows. There won’t be any more plows because the City can’t afford them. The new plows have a long lifespan.

Second priority

Pros and cons

Our world is imperfect. There are no perfect people. There are no perfect programs, too, but the positive will far outweigh any negatives.

The big positive is obvious—citizens will be able to drive through their small residential streets to the main streets. People will be able to get to work, school, shopping, the movies, whatever. 4WD won’t be required. Even after a major snowstorm, everyone’s lifestyle may suffer a bit of a delay but won’t come to a halt.

OK, now the cons. Plowed snow will have to go somewhere. The center of the street means the plowed snow will wind up in the window—against parked cars and across your driveway. There probably will be required to get through the window. City crews will open the back doors of the streets, but they can’t shovel 25,000 driveways. That’s the tradeoff they can’t shovel. The result is not running short of groceries or medical supplies, never mind your child’s piano recital or that concert at the Rialto.

Good neighbors

Adversity often brings people together. We may bring a young, able bodied person together with a neighbor who is no longer able bodied. The young or whose body is not well enough.

Residents who know that a neighbor next door or down the street may need help should volunteer to help the neighbor who is no longer able bodied. Better yet, after you finish reading City Update and before the next snow falls, knock on that door and volunteer to go for the entire winter season.

And the trash

Depending on the day of the week and/or the time of day when the large snow hits, residents’ trash and recycling may be delayed or even canceled for that week’s pickup. With a big storm, the truck drivers will be called upon to do double duty; clearing snow and picking up the carts. Snowplow and recycling will have priority over cart pickup.

For residents whose pickup day follows the snow clearing, please place carts further out in the street than normal, possibly as far out as 12 to 18 feet. This will make it more accessible to the trucks for pickup. Snowplows, especially the large ones that will be bringing plowing by trash trucks and the resulting windrows, will make it a major challenge.

Please remember

On a citywide scale, this new effort will be a new experience for everyone, everyone will and everyone may find it a bit awkward. Please keep in mind:

• The residential streets will be plowed following a major storm; six inches at least.
• The plowing will leave a windrow and shoveling will be required. Even residents with snow shovels in their basements will need to get out their shovels and some other means to get through the windrow. No 4WD won’t be perfect, some tweaking will surely be required.
• The snow will almost always be a safe and pleasant winter.

Plowing priorities: All streets are not treated equally

Snow Squad needs volunteers

The City of Loveland Snow Squad is a program necessary to help shovel snow for low income city residents. City regulations require that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall.

There is currently a waiting list for new residents who need, several of whom are in hospice care. Snow Squad is a program to help low income families who need a safe and pleasant winter.

To help a neighbor in need this winter, or for more information, contact Snow Squad at 962-2764.