

ON THE STREETS

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Leaf Collection

As the City's large dump trucks must be set up to remove snow and ice from the City's streets, leaf collection will begin on **October 19th** and will end on **December 7th**. Any leaves raked after this date must be put into biodegradable bags or into marked (yard waste) containers to be picked up by Rumpke Waste Systems on Wednesday with regular trash collection. Leaves must not be raked into the street. These leaves are a safety hazard to the motoring public and also cause drainage problems in the City. Leaves in the street prevent water from entering our storm sewers and cause blockages in sewer lines when they wash into our curb inlets. Residents who rake leaves into the street are subject to prosecution under city codes.

Removing Snow From Your Sidewalks

With winter approaching, we would like to give residents an early reminder regarding snow removal. Sidewalks must be cleaned of snow and ice in a timely manner as spelled out in the General Offenses Code for the City of Whitehall. By law "Every owner, occupant or person having charge of any tenement, building, lot or land fronting on any street with graded or paved sidewalk, within the first four hours after daylight, following or during any fall of snow shall cause the snow to be removed from such walk, and this provision shall include snow or ice falling from any building." Violations of this law may result in legal prosecution. Common courtesy dictates that we as residents consider the needs of those who depend upon the sidewalks to get them to bus stops, schools, stores, etc. Uncleared sidewalks are especially hazardous for the handicapped, the elderly, and our school children. If forced into the street by uncleared sidewalks, they are putting themselves at risk. When the first snowfall arrives this winter, please consider the needs of others and shovel your sidewalks. Additionally, moving vehicles onto driveways and off the side streets will enable the street crew to more efficiently clean the snow off the streets.

Brush And/Or Tree Trimmings

The City of Whitehall will only pick up brush and tree limbs from property maintenance performed by the resident. Whole trees cut down by the resident will not be removed by the City. If a tree service is hired to trim or cut down a tree they are solely responsible for that removal.

Brush and tree limbs will not be picked up from **October 19, 2009** through **February 28, 2010**. During this time the street crews will be devoting their time to leaf pickup and snow removal. Any limbs or brush generated during this period will not be picked up by City forces. This brush must be in lengths no longer than four (4) feet, tied by string or twine into manageable bundles, and set out for Rumpke for pick up on your regular trash day.

Brush and tree limbs not accepted by Rumpke will be picked up or chipped by the City. The City will only pick up brush and tree limbs not accepted by Rumpke Waste Systems as manpower allows. This does not include whole trees or excessive amounts of brush or limbs. The Street Superintendent or his representative will determine what constitutes excessive amounts.

For safety to the chipper operators and the equipment, items not suitable for chipping must not be mixed with suitable items. Items such as thorns and dead brush must be separated and will be collected by hand. Branches and brush that meet requirements must be placed at the curb with the cut end pointed in the direction of the flow of traffic. Crews are sent out on a routine schedule so that there is no need to call for a pickup.

Logs or stumps larger than 14 inches in diameter or longer than 3 feet cannot be picked up by City forces. Any logs or stumps, which do not conform to these requirements, must be removed by a private hauler or must be cut or split to meet these standards.

Trash and Yard Waste

Trash

Trash, refuse, bulk, recycling and yard waste is collected on Wednesday of each week by our contracted hauler, Rumpke Waste Systems. In accordance with City Ordinance 933.11, all trash, refuse, bulk materials, yard waste and recycling and pick up should be placed in their appropriate locations after sundown on the day before collection.

Subsequently, empty trash cans, yard waste containers, and recycling bins should be brought in by sundown on the day of collection. Containers left out after this time are subject to being removed by the City. The appropriate location for placing trash, refuse, bulk materials, yard waste and recycling is at the curb or at the street in front of your property. Trash is no longer collected in the alleys.

Yard Waste

Residents who have yard waste must use either biodegradable paper bags purchased at local hardware or grocery stores, or the yard waste may be placed in separate containers that you provide and marked with a "Rumpke Yard Waste" sticker. Two stickers are available per residence and may be picked up in the office of the Director of Public Service, 360 South Yearling Road, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Mon-Fri. Your containers of yard waste will then be emptied weekly by Rumpke Waste Systems on your Wednesday trash collection day.

Building Materials, Tires, Hazardous Materials & Refrigeration Units

The City of Whitehall Service Department will not pick up any building materials, tires, hazardous materials or refrigeration units. Building materials are defined in part as roofing materials, concrete, blacktop, plumbing fixtures, wall board, lumber, carpeting materials, etc.

Exception – during spring clean-up only, the City will pick up your building materials. If you will be disposing of carpeting, we request that you please cut and bundle your carpeting/padding into manageable four-foot lengths for easier removal.

Rumpke will only pick up refrigerators or other refrigeration units if a certified technician has removed the refrigerant and an official sticker is attached verifying the removal. *Remember* - Do not put refrigerators, air conditioners, or tires at the curb. These items are the resident's responsibility to properly dispose of.

Sewer Backups

If you experience sewer blockage in your home or business or have water in your basement that you can't explain, please call the Whitehall Service Department before you call a plumber. We will send a crew out to check to see if the main line is blocked. If it is, the service crew will unblock the line. Once the main line is running normally, the water in your basement should dissipate. If it doesn't, it probably means that your service line is blocked. At that time you should call a plumber or a roofer service. During periods of heavy rain, main lines may take on extra water to the extent that wastewater from your house draining into the sanitary sewer has nowhere to go. That water may then back up into your basement. This water will drain eventually as the main line returns to normal flow. One way to prevent any water from backing up into your basement is to purchase a drain plug from a hardware or home improvement store. This drain plug fits inside the floor drain and tightens with a wing nut until it is snug and watertight. The plug can be removed anytime. These plugs usually cost less than ten dollars.

Any costs associated with damage or cleanup as a result of a sewer backup are not reimbursable by the City except in rare circumstances. The City of Whitehall has initiated a number of proactive and reactive steps to insure that our main sewer lines run as efficiently as possible. Main line blockages have decreased dramatically in the past few years but blockages may occur when people place non-biodegradable items in their toilets and drains. We will do our best to clear the lines as soon as possible after we receive a report to minimize inconvenience to the resident.

Phone numbers to call for sewer check:

Normal work hours: (Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) Service Dept. 237-8612
After normal work hours or weekends Fire 237-5478 or Police 237-6333
Please do not call 911.

Building Department Business

It's time again to start the process of winterizing your home. As the leaves change color, we enjoy the beauty created by them, but unfortunately we must clean them up. Remember as you rake the leaves from your yard to also remove them from your gutters. If left in the gutters, the rain will flow over the gutter and collect around the foundation, which may cause damp spots in your basement. If the gutters are full of leaves, it may also cause an ice dam, which in turn may cause water infiltration into your roof and ceilings.

The most important item to prepare is your heating system. Call a professional to check for proper operation before it gets cold. Change your filter every two or three months during the heating season, and more often if you have pets.

You should also check the weather stripping around your windows and doors. Replace it if necessary. Look at the bottom of the door at the door sweep. If you see light, it may also need replaced. With just a few inexpensive items you can make your home warm and cozy even when it's freezing outside.

Building and Service Department Website

The City of Whitehall website, <http://cityofwhitehall.com> has several valuable links. Under the "**Service**" link you will find additional links for the "**Building Permit**" and "**Street**" departments. On the "**Street**" page you will find individual links for our City Guides (fall and spring) and upcoming residents' Garage Sale dates and addresses. No fee Garage Sale applications are available at City Hall and your garage sale will be advertised on the Internet. The "**Building Permit**" page provides a list of Whitehall registered contractors, the forms required to register contractors, and permit applications for repair work done in Whitehall. We welcome your comments and suggestions to enhance the information provided on our website to better serve you.