



Hello, neighbors.

Some good news begins this newsletter: Work on the Joachim Creek bridge on Festus-Horine Road should be completed by this weekend. The project upgrades the span on a roadway from Stonewater to Herculaneum via McNutt School Road.



Final construction includes the installation of guard rails on the rebuilt span. Mike Schrage of the Festus Special Road District says there have been minor setbacks caused by vandalism and theft, but work progressed well in favorable weather. This week's dry forecast should allow for expedient completion.

Signs and barriers posted on Festus-Horine Road will be coming down and traffic will flow through by the weekend, barring any unforeseen difficulties.

Snow business

Dry and relatively warm weather might not bring to mind cold and snow, but plans are prepared for keeping Stonewater streets safe and as clean as possible this winter. [Southpoint Landscaping](#) again will do plowing and salting of roadways when conditions warrant.

Terry Gibbs of Southpoint says he and his workers bring a year's experience on Stonewater streets to their work. Southpoint has a long record of service to area subdivisions, most of which are more difficult to treat than Stonewater.

"We come in and pre-salt the streets in preparation for bad weather," Gibbs said.

Southpoint crews return when snow builds up to two inches before blading and salting again.

Stonewater isn't a difficult subdivision for snow removal -- "Flat streets make this easy," Gibbs said -- but there is one thing residents should do to help for snow removal and ice treatment.



Move vehicles off the street.

"If they get off the streets it makes the job so much nicer," Gibbs said. That's not just for Southpoint. With vehicles out of the way, more street surface can be cleared and salted to prevent ice from forming.

That's similar to recommendations from the Herculaneum street department. Mark Johnson, the city's public works director, says snow removal is greatly impeded by vehicles parked on streets and roadways.

Clear streets are more than a convenience for Stonewater residents. They allow faster access by emergency service vehicles as well.

Residents also count on street clearance work by the [Festus Special Road District](#). In addition to Festus-Horine Road, the district clears and treats Herky-Horine Road and the Cherry-Main route to Hwy. Z through Horine. Salt and cinders are used on roadways.

[This advice](#): Snow removal equipment has the right of way. Stay at least 100 feet behind snow removal equipment; and do not push snow from driveways onto cleared streets. It takes about three hours to remove snow once flakes stop falling. And, road district vehicles cannot tow stranded vehicles.

Cherry, which includes a steep valley, gets prompt attention, said Schrage of the Festus Special Road District.

"It's the first place I get to when I begin my route," Schrage said.

Last word

All residents in the Stonewater Homeowners Association should receive important information this week via mail. This is an update on the HOA budget and finances and a reminder of payment due for 2022 subdivisions fees.

HOA member fees pay for street lights, street repairs and maintenance on common ground. Major expenditures in 2021 included replacement of badly broken street sections and improvement to the lake dam. A breach in the dam exposed Stonewater's main water and sewer lines. Work was contracted through Herculaneum with Stonewater paying half the costs.

In 2022, more street repairs are planned. Locations will be determined this spring.