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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inspect to Protect Your Mailbox This Winter

The first snowfall will be here before we know it, so now is the time to prepare our mailboxes for winter. Every winter mailboxes are damaged due to snow drifts, vehicle incidents or snowplow damage. The Deerfield Township Public Works Department would like to encourage all residents to take some precautions this year in stabilizing their mailboxes for the winter season.

Common repairs include replacing loose hinges on a mailbox door, remounting a mailbox post that may have come loose, and replacing or adding house numbers. Residents installing new mailboxes or replacing old ones must use United States Postal Service-approved traditional or contemporary mailboxes. Generally, the bottom of a mailbox should be between 40 and 42 inches above the road surface and placed so that carriers may safely and conveniently serve them without leaving their vehicles.

For any mailbox located by the road, there is always the risk of damage caused by snow plows. Damage may also be caused by not only contact with a snowplow, but by heavy, wet snow being thrown off the plow. When inspecting your mailbox, check and repair any weaknesses you may see such as rotten wood, deterioration, and/ or cracks in the post, as well as leaning of the mailbox.

Damage to mailboxes resulting from snow plowing will be evaluated on a case by case basis. It is an unavoidable fact that there is always the potential for damage to mailboxes and fences during the snow removal process. Mailboxes and fences that are damaged by actual physical contact with Township snow removal equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense, but only if they were properly located and installed. The mailbox owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if it was damaged by the pressure of piled snow, but there was no physical contact with the plow equipment.

For further information about the Township's snow removal policy, please visit our website at: <http://www.choosedeerfield.com>

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