



## **TOWN OF AMHERST DRIVING BAN REMAINS, MAJORITY OF STREETS EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED BY END OF DAY**

**(Town of Amherst, NY)** – The Town of Amherst’s state of emergency and driving ban remain in place today, Monday, December 26, 2022, as town crews continue to tackle massive storm clean up. Roads that have been cleared are for emergency vehicle use only and residents need to stay off these routes.

Most of the main roads have been addressed, and the Highway Department expects to reach 95 percent of town roads by the end of the day. That is dependent on several conditions, including the current weather forecast and abandoned cars. The Town has secured and dispatched additional high lifts for the town’s secondary streets because plows can’t handle the conditions on those streets.

At this time, the Town plans to announce an update on the driving ban this evening. However, even after the driving ban is lifted, a 24-hour parking ban will be in place throughout the town until further notice. Additional information will be provided later today.

Yesterday, town crews focused on responding to hundreds of calls for emergencies, using a multi-equipment approach to gain access through high drifts to reach residents in need. As of this morning, 1,300 customers remained without power. Town crews also prioritized those areas to provide National Grid access to restore power.

Hundreds of vehicles blocked roads throughout the town. Amherst Police will report an update for vehicle owners who abandoned their vehicle. Information will be found on the town’s website, [www.amherst.ny.us](http://www.amherst.ny.us), shortly.

In addition to calls to police dispatch, volunteer firefighters responded to more than 500 emergency calls. Calls continue to come in, including two large structure fires.

The fire halls that were being used as warming shelters have been cleared with citizens still needing assistance transferred to the Town Warming Center on Sheridan Drive. The Town is still supporting approximately 20 citizens, several with significant needs. That process continues to move them to their homes when it is safe.

All Town Buildings are closed Dec. 26 to the public and all activities cancelled. The Town anticipates buildings will reopen Tuesday with delayed starts. The Northtown Center and Senior Center will be closed to the public and all activities cancelled, however staff will report.

Additionally, residents who are cleaning up their driveways are reminded to not put snow in the roadways, and to please be mindful of their own health as they are moving an historic amount of snow fall. Residents who have been moving their vehicles into the street to do driveway clearing have impacted snow removal efforts.

The Town is also preparing to respond to expected flooding at the end of the week as temperatures will rise into the 40s and 50s. Additional information and warnings will be posted in the coming days.

Anyone with an emergency needs to call 9-1-1. If you have a serious matter, that is not an emergency such as needing medication or dialysis, should call 716-858-SNOW. Amherst Fire Dispatch can be reached at 716-689-1212. The Town’s information email is: [toainfo@amherst.ny.us](mailto:toainfo@amherst.ny.us).