

# TOWN OF LYSANDER



## **Mailbox Laws and Regulations**

- According to Section 319 of the New York State Highway Law, mailboxes are considered highway obstructions and are only “allowed” in the right-of-way as a convenience to the owner as it is understood they are required for mail.

### **Mailbox responsibility**

- It is understood that mailboxes must be placed in the highway right-of-way however, that does not grant the homeowners any legal rights in the highway when needed for highway purposes. The Attorney General on February 28, 1966 stated “When the necessity of keeping the highway open conflicts with an individual’s reception of the mail, the later must stand aside”.
- In extreme weather conditions, mailboxes can be damaged during snow removal. Damage is often a result of the force of the snow coming off a

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plow's blade. Mailboxes are often damaged due to weather conditions, amount of snowfall, and the weight of the snow. Highway Driver's do their best to avoid mailboxes but oftentimes visibility, oncoming traffic and heavy snow work against them.

- The best way to protect your mailbox is ensure it is properly attached to the post and to keep the mailbox assembly simple and limit the impact surface area from plowed snow. The Highway Department recommends the homeowners check their mailboxes periodically.
- **The Town is NOT responsible for damage from plowing operations to basketball hoops, trash cans or any other property placed within The Town right-of-way including mailboxes.**
- The mailbox and its support arm should have a minimum of 42 inches of clear space under it and at least 2 feet back to the post from the face of the mailbox to allow the snowplow wing to pass under the mailbox and its arm. USPS allows 41 inches to 45 inches from the roadway surface, a snowplow wing is 40 inches in height, you must take into consideration snow and ice buildup when calculating your minimum clear space.
- The mailbox post and box must be strong enough to stand up to heavy snow coming off the plow but also must bend or fall away if a car hits them.

Town of Lysander  
Highway Department