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## **Borough's new automated caller system helped set stage for cleanup from winter storm**

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By Bob Keeler

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>> Driving on Broad Street the night of Jan. 22 when Winter Storm Jonas — the blizzard that dropped more than two feet of snow on the local area as it made its way up the East Coast — was just beginning, the Borough Council President noticed the cars normally parked there were gone.

“That had to be a lot nicer plowing Broad Street with not a single car on it,” he said at council’s Feb. 8 work session.

The borough’s new automated calling system was developed for use along with the switch to a single-hauler trash collection system, but can also be used for other kinds of boroughwide messages, the Borough Manager said. On Jan. 22, it was used to inform residents that a snow emergency had been declared.

“It seemed to work rather well,” he said. “It was by far the best response we’ve ever had for a snow emergency.”

During a snow emergency, there is no parking allowed on East Broad, West Broad and Main streets.

On all the other streets, the areas in which parking is allowed remain the same as normal during a snow emergency because the borough realizes there are areas where it is difficult to find parking other than on the street, the public works director, said. The streets on which cars are parked, though, may not be fully cleared initially, he said.

Residents have a choice of receiving the automated system as a voice, text or email message, the Borough Manager said.

Future messages about winter weather could include a reminder to residents not to throw or blow snow into the street, the Borough Council President said.

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