

# Jamaica Plain

- home
- news
- events
- discussions
- search

[< Back to front page](#)

Text size – +

JAMAICA PLAIN

## Shovel-ready: JP neighbors dig out those in need

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 21, 2011 01:05 PM

[E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Crews of volunteer snow shovelers organized through the web and cell phones were out and about in Jamaica Plain clearing the remnants of [Friday morning's storm](#).

It was the second storm in as many weeks tackled by the newly formed JP group that offers free snow removal to neighborhood residents in need.

SnowCrew allows local residents to [sign-up](#) to help shovel, while others can [request help](#) digging out.

The group accepts shoveling assistance requests, which can be made by those requesting the help or by someone who knows them, for those who live in Jamaica Plain and have a medical condition, are elderly, disabled, must look after young children, or are caretakers for someone else and either cannot get to those they care for or need help themselves.

Once a request for help comes in, those who signed up to volunteer are notified by dispatchers and the volunteers can then accept or decline their mission – via text or on a smartphone app – based on their location and availability.

"It's all about doing something for someone else, doing it together and having fun doing it," said Joseph Porcelli, the group's founder.

He said SnowCrew is still in its pilot stages – its first run was during last week's blizzard – but it has been successful and growing thus far.

According to a post on the Neighbors for Neighbors site, which Porcelli leads and is used as another tool for SnowCrew, 53 people signed up to help shovel for the Jan. 12 storm, 34 confirmed their availability to help, 11 were dispatched and an unknown number ventured out somewhat on their own using a map posted the site to find neighbors in need of shoveling.

In all, the site says crews shoveled 19 different locations including four crosswalks, the walkways, porches and driveways of three elderly neighbors and one injured neighbor, two bus stops and two community-maintained parks. Volunteers even helped [clean up a fallen tree](#) after last week's blizzard. To read coverage from WGBH about SnowCrew's inaugural run, [click here](#).

The effort is only ongoing in Jamaica Plain, for now, but Porcelli said plans to

Connect to Your Town Jamaica Plain on Facebook

Like You like **Your Town Jamaica Plain**. Unlike · Admin Page · **Error**  
You and 150 others like this. 150 likes · Sign Up to see what

ADVERTISEMENT

### JAMAICA PLAIN REAL ESTATE »

<b>142</b> Homes for sale	<b>40</b> Rentals available	<b>27</b> Open houses this week	<b>1</b> New listings this week
------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

ADVERTISEMENT

**University of Phoenix®**

### Online and Campus Programs

<b>Bachelor's Degrees</b>	<b>Master's Degrees</b>
Business	MBA
Nursing	Education
Education	Nursing
Communications	
Criminal Justice	<b>Doctoral Degrees</b>
Health Admin.	Business Admin.
Info. Technology	Health Admin.

[Learn More ▶](#)

### Jamaica Plain Headlines »

- Area leaders to discuss possible \$3m cut to Hub social service providers (1 day ago)
- Police release name of

**Flyerboard**

POST FLYER VIEW ALL

expand are being considered.

There have been some challenges, he said - shovelers have showed up to sites that are already shoveled and volunteers accidentally shoveled the front of an apartment building once because the request form hadn't specified that it was for help to shovel out a car owned by one of the building's tenants. But, other than some minor bugs which are being managed and learned from on-the-fly, the SnowCrew launch has been a success.

"I believe people always want to help each other, they just don't always know how," he said.

So far, this winter has been a **good one** to launch such a group. **Others in the neighborhood** have united to clear their local streets and sidewalks. And, it looks like there could be **more to dig out quite soon**.

To learn more, volunteer, or request assistance, visit <http://jamaicaplain.neighborsforneighbors.org/group/snowcrew>.

Twitter | 
 Digg | 
 Like | 
 You like Shovel-ready: JP | 
 Valoo Buzz | 
 Share

[◀ Previous entry](#) | 
 [Next entry ▶](#)

#### MORE FROM BOSTON.COM

[Behind Queen Elizabeth II's real estate shopping spree in Wellesley](#) *(Your Town)*

[Teacher aide at Brookline High ordered to stay away from kids](#) *(Your Town)*

[First Lady: President Obama has quit smoking](#) *(National news)*

[Snow is falling and the cancellations have started](#) *(MetroDesk)*

[Boston area man faces charges of sex with girl, 13](#) *(Local News)*

#### MORE FROM THE WEB

[How do I tie a winter scarf?](#) *(Style + Tech For Men)*

[Vicious Infighting at NBC News](#) *(The Daily Beast)*

[Sleeping With Strangers](#) *(The Real College Guide)*

[How to Break Up With a Business Partner](#) *(OPEN Forum)*

[The Truth About Affairs \(and How to Prevent Them\)](#) *(Man of the House)*

[Sponsored links]

**READER COMMENTS »**  
[View reader comments \(2\) »](#) | 
 [Comment on this story »](#)

[Jamaica Plain slaying victim](#) *(1 day ago)*

- [Victim of Jamaica Plain homicide is identified by police](#) *(1 day ago)*
- [Drug defendant retried on high court's order is acquitted](#) *(2 days ago)*

#### Also From Jamaica Plain

##### JAMAICA PLAIN HISTORY



Inn, founded by brewers, quenched local thirst

##### NIGHTLIFE



A night out in Jamaica Plain

##### PHOTOS



A church reborn

##### LOCAL ARTISTS



Sculpting a better life for others

Local advertising by PaperG

#### Jamaica Plain On Twitter »

**AWESOME NEWS!** What's the best way to celebrate: Temperatures expected to rise into the mid-40s next week - <http://ow.ly/3UQCu> about 22 hours ago

**Jamaica Plain man acquitted in case that went to Supreme Court** - <http://ow.ly/3Ug9N> 2 days ago

**Live chat tomorrow with #MBTA's police chief** - <http://ow.ly/3Ua0i> 2 days ago

Boston issued nearly 8,800 tickets in snow emergencies -  
<http://ow.ly/3Sxht> 4 days ago

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Events](#) | [Schools](#) | [Sports](#) | [Discussions](#) | [Marketplace](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Contact Boston.com](#) | [Contact The Boston Globe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | © 2011 NY Times Co.