

City of Motley

Fall 2017 Newsletter

We have continued to update the City website (www.cityofmotley.com); please be sure to utilize it for updates and important community info.

Important Dates

- *October 31st:** Delinquent accounts must be paid in full to avoid certification
- November 10th:** City Hall will be CLOSED in observance of Veterans Day
- *November 14th:** Last day to pay special assessments with no 2018 interest
- November 23rd & 24th:** City Hall will be CLOSED in observance of Thanksgiving
- December 11th:** Truth in Taxation meeting – public comment on 2018 Budget and Levy – Council Chambers, 6:00pm
- December 25th:** City Hall will be CLOSED in observance of Christmas Day
- January 1st:** City Hall will be CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day

*See Notes from the Clerk-Treasurer on next page for more details

Notes from the Police Department

Please remember that all pets need to be contained in a fenced-in area or on a leash. If you are going to walk your pet, please make sure they are on a leash. An additional reminder that all dogs and cats are required to be licensed annually. The license fee is \$5 per year, and the fine for an unlicensed pet is \$100. License applications are available at City Hall and on the City website. Licensing your pet is not only required by City Ordinance, but it will help us return your pet back to you safely and avoid impound fees should they get away from you.

Please note: If you call the police department's regular number and we do not answer, Morrison County dispatch will pick up the phone after the fourth ring and will contact us by radio to respond to your call.

Notes from the Public Works Department

Please remember NOT to blow your lawn clippings into the street. This policy helps to keep the streets and gutters clean, helps reduce mosquito hatching areas in backed up catch basins, and will help save tax dollars that will otherwise be spent on street sweeping, gutter cleaning, and mosquito control. Thank you for your cooperation!

With the weather changing, please be mindful of removing your garbage cans after pickup as they can get in the way of snow plows.

Notes from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

Office hours have been extended once again! Current hours:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm; Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm

If you are unable to take care of normal yard maintenance/raking and would like assistance, you can contact City Hall and we will *attempt* to connect you with volunteers (or community groups, etc.) that may be able to assist you. **If you would like to volunteer to assist with this service, please contact City Hall!**

Garbage and recycling carts are to be put out on the curb by **6:00 am** on collection days and removed after collection on the same day unless otherwise directed by City Hall. Please remove cans from curbside during any other time. If you believe your garbage or recycling pickup was missed, please call City Hall to report it as soon as possible.

We now accept debit and credit cards. You can pay with your card at City Hall, online, or over the phone. Please note that there is no direct cost to the City for this service, but there is a user convenience fee associated with use that depends on the dollar amount of your payment. All fees will be disclosed prior to completing your transaction and a copy of the fee structure is available at City Hall and online.

If you require a seasonal water/sewer shut-off, there is a form available at City Hall (or on the City website) that must be completed prior to shut-off. Your service will then be shut-off on the requested date and you will not accumulate water or sewer charges until you request the service be restored. There is a \$20 reconnect fee that will be charged at that time. Please note that you will continue to be charged for garbage and recycling.

*If you have a special assessment on your property, **November 14th** is the last day in 2017 to pre-pay your entire remaining assessment without paying any of the 2018 interest. If you have questions about your remaining assessment, please contact us.

*Utility accounts with an outstanding bill due for 30 days or more as of **October 31st** will be certified to the County each year to be collected with property taxes. To avoid accruing penalty charges, and having utility bills certified, please pay your bill *in full* by the 18th of each month. Please note that certification of past due charges does not preclude the City from disconnecting services for nonpayment.

Please note: After certification of delinquent accounts, the City will continue following the City Ordinance relating to overdue accounts and utility shut-offs. This is a reminder that: All bills are due and payable on or before the date set forth on the bill; That if any bill is not paid by or before that date, a second bill will be mailed containing a cutoff notice that if the bill is not paid within ten days of the mailing of the second bill, service will be discontinued for nonpayment; and that any customer disputing the correctness of his or her bill shall have a right to a hearing at which time he or she may be represented in person and by counsel or any other person of his or her choosing and may present orally or in writing his or her complaint and contentions to the city official in charge of utility billing. This official shall be authorized to order that the customer's service not be discontinued and shall have the authority to make a final determination of the customer's complaint.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact City Hall directly at 218-352-6200 and/or attend an upcoming City Council meeting. If you would like to place an item on the Agenda to be heard by the Council, please fill out an agenda request form (available at City Hall or online) and return it to City Hall by the Wednesday preceding the meeting.

Notes from the Fire Department

Winter is coming and the threat of a winter fire is real. Are you and your home ready?

- **905 people die in winter home fires each year.**
 - 60 percent of all home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.
 - 38 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.
 - The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.
- **\$2,091,000,000 in property loss occurs from winter home fires.**
- **67 percent of winter fires occur in one and two family homes.**
- **5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.**
 - Have an evacuation plan in place and practice it with your family.
 - Make sure your children know that they shouldn't hide during a fire and that they need to evacuate.
- **December is the peak time of year for home candle fires; the top four days for home candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Each year between 2009 and 2013, an average of 25 home candle fires were reported each day.**
 - Keep candles and any open flames away from combustible materials.
- **Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.**
 - Having a good working fire extinguisher readily available can be a life saver.
 - **Do not attempt to extinguish large fires. Contact the Fire Department immediately by dialing 911.**
- **Heating is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries. December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires.**
 - Have your furnace inspected and properly maintained. Keep vents clear of debris, snow, and ice.
 - Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, figuring in two of every five fires (40%). If you are using space heaters, do not use in conjunction with extension cords. Make certain that there are no combustible materials in front of, or near, the heater.
 - If you have a wood burning stove or fireplace, have your chimney inspected and cleaned regularly.

- Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Carbon Monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months and in residential properties.
 - Portable generators are useful during power outages; however, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards. According to a 2013 Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) report, half of the generator-related deaths happened in the four coldest months of the year, November through February, and portable generators were involved in the majority of carbon monoxide deaths involving engine-driven tools.
- **Have Smoke and CO detectors properly installed throughout your home. Check the device for an expiration date and replace as needed. Test the device monthly, and replace the batteries yearly.**

From your friends at the Motley Fire Department