



# NEWSLETTER

*Fall / Winter 2020*

[CityofMotley.com](http://CityofMotley.com)

*October 22, 2020*

## **Important Dates**

**October 31<sup>st</sup>: Trunk or Treat** – Motley United Methodist Church Parking Lot 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Trick or Treat** – Motley businesses will be handing out treats, watch for the Orange Pumpkin in participating business windows.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>:** Delinquent utility accounts must be paid in full to avoid certification to the county

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>: General Election Day** – polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veteran's Day:** City Hall closed

**November 26<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving:** City Hall closed

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** Last day to payoff special assessments without interest for 2021

**December 14<sup>th</sup>: Truth in Taxation meeting** – 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

**December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve:** City Hall closed

**January 18<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** City Hall closed

**February 15<sup>th</sup>: President's Day:** City Hall closed

**Regular City Council Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, 6:30pm, City Hall**

**Regular Planning Commission Meetings: last Tuesday of every month, 6:30pm, City Hall**

Contact City Hall at 218-352-6200 with any questions or concerns.

**City Hall is open 8:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Thursday**

[www.cityofmotley.com](http://www.cityofmotley.com)  
316 Hwy 10 S, Motley, MN 56466  
218-352-6200

## Notes from the Mayor

This is an important year to make sure that all residents get out and vote. If you are unable to get to the city hall on Election Day, register for your mail-in ballot by calling the County Auditor/Treasurer's office. Voting for the City of Motley residents will be at the City Hall.

2020 has been somewhat of a frustrating year with everything that's been going on, including the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage people to continue social distancing and wearing the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Let's keep smiling and be kind to each other and hope for a brighter future!

Also, a reminder to drive with caution and allow yourself extra time when driving on our Minnesota roadways during winter weather.

As the holiday season approaches, your Mayor would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



## Notes from the Police Department

### Halloween Safety Tips



The Motley Police Department looks forward to Halloween and seeing all the local kids dressing up and having a good time. We want to make sure that kids enjoy going from house to house and everyone stays safe, so here are some safety tips for everyone to remember:

1. Cross streets at the corners and never dart out between parked vehicles along a street, making sure to look both ways before crossing.
2. Always walk on a sidewalk when you can, but if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
3. Put electronic devices down such as your phone and keep your head up.
4. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. They may have a hard time seeing you.
5. Carry glow sticks or flashlights to help you see and help drivers see you better.
6. Select a correctly sized costume to prevent trips and falls
7. Wear face paint or makeup when possible rather than a mask which may obstruct vision.
8. Drivers, slow down and watch carefully for younger children who may unexpectedly run out in front of you and always drive with your headlights on.

### Hunting Safety Tips

Hunting seasons are here, and deer hunting is fast approaching. The police department wants to remind everyone to be safe while hunting and transporting weapons with these tips:

1. Treat every firearm (gun, bow, crossbow, etc.) as it is loaded at all times and ALWAYS point it in a safe direction.
2. Make sure all guns and bows are unloaded and properly cased while transporting in a vehicle.
3. Always know what you are shooting at and what is behind your target as well.
4. Wear blaze orange clothing, including a hat.
5. Follow all State and Federal hunting rules.



**\*\*Also, just a reminder, it is illegal to hunt or fire any kind of weapon in the city limits of Motley, even for target practice. This includes all archery (bow and arrow, crossbows, etc.), and all firearms including BB and pellet guns. Violators will be cited and possibly arrested.**

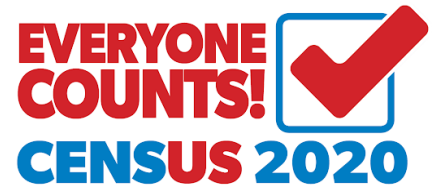
## Notes from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

The 2020 Census concluded on October 15, 2020. As of today, well over 99.9% of housing units have been accounted for in the 2020 Census. Susan Brower, Minnesota's State Demographer, explained the importance of the Census below:

"The census is the foundation of our democracy and tells the story of who we are and where we are going as a nation. Federal funding for essential services and congressional representation are on the line, and it is crucial that we achieve a complete and accurate count," said Brower.

Brower continued, "Minnesota should be proud of the work we've already done to achieve a nation-leading self-response rate, which we hope will allow us to retain Minnesota's 8 Congressional seats and assure the proper allocation of over \$24 billion annually in federal funds that help support Minnesota's schools, hospitals, agriculture, first responders, roads, businesses, and households."

Given our continuing challenges, we can all take pride in our efforts to help our residents understand the importance of being counted. Thank you to all who responded to the 2020 Census!

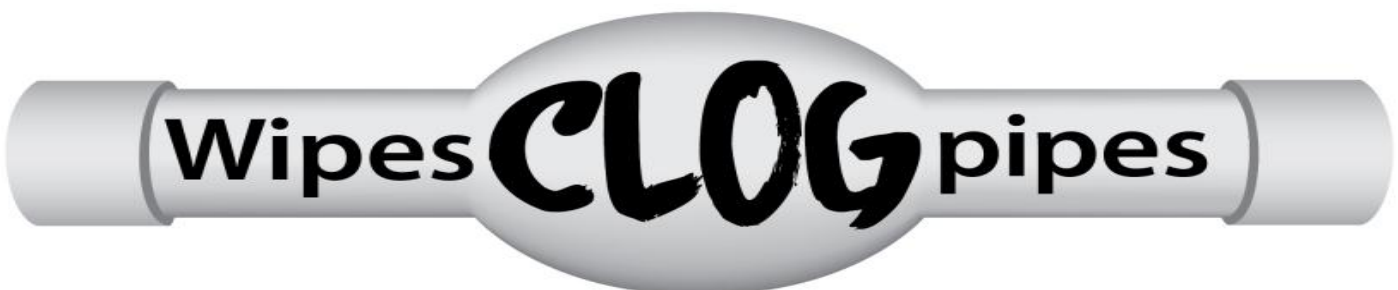


## Notes from the Public Works Department

Just a reminder to all residents using the compost site. This is not to be used as a dump for garbage, only compostable items. Please make note of the signage at the site directing you to the correct spots. Concrete and tar are not acceptable items. These items are accepted at Hengel's in Pillager for free.

As the Winter season is here now, the Public Works Department would like to remind you to remove your garbage carts from the edge of the street after each garbage pickup. Also, please be mindful of parked vehicles on the street whenever significant snowfall is expected. If you have no alternative parking, please coordinate with your neighbors by all parking on the same side of the street. It becomes very difficult for the plow truck to zig-zag through areas where cars are parked on both sides of the street.

Once again, we would like to remind all residents of the negative effects of flushing wipes. Please note, even if they are labeled "flushable" they do not degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other cloth item. Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They overwork the treatment system, clog pipes and pumps and cost you as a taxpayer and resident extra money in additional maintenance costs. If you must use wipes, put them in the trash, not the toilet! Many homeowners have experienced plumbing problems because of wipes, so you may have expensive maintenance issues at home if you flush them.



## **Notes from the Fire Department**



**There is nothing more important than the safety of your family.**

And as summer turns to fall, it is a good idea for everyone in your home to refresh their memories on fall fire safety tips.

Most safety tips are the same year-round, but here are some **fall fire safety tips for children and families** to familiarize themselves with before experiencing the first cold snap of the season.

### ***Check Smoke Detectors & Fire Extinguishers***

- Change batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Verify each month that smoke detectors are in working order
- Verify that all fire extinguishers are fully charged and in working order
- Make sure that there is a sufficient quantity of smoke detectors in your home
- Make sure everyone in your family knows how to use a fire extinguisher

### ***Make Sure All Heating Sources Work Properly***

- No matter what type of device you use to heat your home, making sure your heating devices and/or systems are in good working order
- Verify that everything you need to keep your home warm throughout fall and winter is in good working

### ***Space Heater Safety Tips***

- Make sure that any space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space
- Never place clothing or any other objects on a space heater to dry
- Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to bed
- Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters

### ***Halloween Safety Tips***

- Use flashlights instead of candles in Halloween jack-o-lanterns
- Make sure that children's costumes are made with fire retardant materials

### ***Family Fire Safety Tips***

- Teach your kids how to respond in the event of a fire
- Make sure young children know how to dial 911
- Establish and practice a fire escape plan with your family that includes a designated meeting area outside the home
- Practice stop, drop and roll with your children so they learn how to escape beneath a fire

- Teach everyone in your family multiple ways to escape from every room in the event of a fire
- Do not place lit candles where they can be reached by children
- Never leave burning candles unattended
- Do not leave candles burning when you go to sleep
- Make sure all flammable substances are properly stored in safe containers and out of reach of children

### ***Kitchen Fire Safety***

- Don't leave cooking food unattended on the stove
- Keep everything that might be flammable away from your stove

### ***Outdoor Fire Safety***

- Clear your roof and gutters of unnecessary buildup of debris, such as pine needles and leaves
- Learn the outdoor burning regulations in your area, and do not engage in illegal burning of leaves and other outdoor debris

## **Holiday Fire Safety**

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires each year. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be. Here is everything you need to know about keeping your home and family safe from fires during the holiday season!

### **Facts About Holiday Home Fire Safety**

- One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four of Christmas tree fires.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- One-third of all candle fires start in the bedroom.

### **Safety and Your Tree— Quick Tips**

- Natural trees should be cut at a 45-degree angle
- Place tree away from sources of heat
- Use only non-flammable decorations
- Inspect lights for frayed wire or other defects before use
- Do not leave lights on unattended
- Keep the tree stand full of water at all times
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it immediately

