

City of Motley Newsletter

Winter 2020

January 3, 2020

Important Dates

January 20th: City Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

February 17th: City Hall closed in observance of Presidents' Day

March 3rd: First ever Minnesota Presidential Nomination Primary – GET OUT AND VOTE!

Regular City Council Meetings: 2nd Monday of every month - 6:30pm, City Hall

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

Notes from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

*A lot of changes are happening in the office! There will be a new Administrative/Accounting Assistant and Clerk-Treasurer in the coming weeks. Please bear with us during this transition period. We apologize in advance for the irregular hours and any inconvenience you may encounter, and thank you for your patience. If you **need** to speak with someone at City Hall, please call to ensure the office is open before a trip is wasted.*

At the Council's December 9th meeting, budgets were approved for the General Fund and the Fire Fund. The overall levy increase for the City is came in at 0.71% for 2020. Although there is a small increase in the annual levy, the city's tax rate was actually *reduced* by 8.43%. A copy of the annual budget is available to view at City Hall or upon request by emailing cityofmotley@brainerd.net.

Looking for some extra cash? Want to be involved in the political process? Just want to help out the community you live in? **Consider being an election judge!** Interest forms are available at City Hall, on the City website, or through the County Auditor's office. **PLEASE FILL OUT AN INTEREST FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** Election judges are paid **\$12/hour**.

The Census Bureau is hiring! This opportunity only comes around once a decade! Reasons to work for the Census Bureau:

- 1) Earn Extra Money! Jobs for the 2020 Census offer competitive wages that are paid weekly. Authorized expenses, such as mileage, are reimbursed for employees doing fieldwork. The minimum wage currently offered in Minnesota is **\$21.50/hour!**
- 2) Support Your Community! Census data is used to determine your representation in Congress, as well as how funds are spent for roads, schools, hospitals, and more. Help ensure that everyone in your community is counted in the next census!
- 3) Fit Your Schedule! Temporary positions for the 2020 Census feature flexible hours—a perfect fit if you are looking to earn a little extra money, even if you already have other commitments.

INTERESTED?!?!? Apply online: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>

MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED – RESPOND TO THE 2020 CENSUS TO ENSURE OUR AREA RECEIVES THE FUNDING AND REPRESENTATION WE DESERVE!

WHAT IF??? What if nobody came when you called 911? What if nobody helped lift your grandpa off the floor? What if you were stuck in a rolled over vehicle & there was nobody available to operate the Jaws of Life? What if you never heard those screaming sirens approach as you watched your house go up in flames?



What if YOU answered that call?

FIREFIGHTERS WANTED!

The Motley Fire Department is seeking applicants for volunteer firefighters. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age, have a valid Minnesota driver's license, live within an acceptable response time area and be able to pass a physical examination. Firefighters receive \$9.00 for each call/meeting/training attended. Fully vested members of the FD Relief Association receive \$2,000/year of active service upon retirement. Application forms are available at Motley City Hall located at 316 Hwy 10 S., on the City's website, or by calling 218-352-6200. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Help serve your community and join the team!

Notes from the Fire Department: Space Heater safety tips!

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fire result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage. Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in. Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

Notes from the Police Department

The Police Department has received a number of scam complaints where residents have fallen victim and lost large amounts of money. In order to avoid this from happening, here are some helpful suggestions on how to handle these types of calls:

1. If anyone calls you and claims to be a representative of your bank, credit card, loan advisor, utility company, etc., DO NOT give them any personal information such as your driver's license number, full name and date of birth, social security number, bank account numbers, PIN numbers, phone numbers, or names of relatives or family members. If they need this information, they will already have it in their system if they are legitimate. If you feel you need to find out what they are inquiring about, hang up and call your bank, credit card company, utility company, etc., personally from the phone number on your monthly statement and not a phone number that they give you over the phone.
2. If anyone calls you claiming that you have won a prize, or are eligible for a loan, or other "Free Money", again, DO NOT give them any personal information, and DO NOT purchase any pre-paid cards, gift cards, Amazon cards, cashier checks, personal checks, money orders, etc., and DO NOT give them the security numbers on them. If you have truly won a prize, there is no reason for you to give them money to receive the prize. If they state that it is for tax purposes, it is a scam as the IRS does not work in that manner and will collect the taxes due through your annual income tax filing.
3. If anyone calls claiming to be the IRS, a law enforcement agency, or a jail from another state or country, DO NOT send them any money. Law enforcement and the IRS do not operate in this manner and will never call you requesting money. People have lost thousands of dollars by transferring money to out of country "law enforcement jails" who state their loved one is in jail and won't be released until they receive payment, only to find out their loved one has not left the country and is at work or at home. When in doubt, please call our office and we can assist you in verifying whether the call is legitimate or not.
4. If anyone calls and states that they need to work on your computer, such as HP Customer Support, or another computer company, DO NOT let them. They are scammers and will be going through all your files in order to find out all of your personal information including your banking information. If your computer needs repair, take it to a reputable local computer repair company.

If you receive any phone calls that appear to be a scam, please hang up your phone. If you feel law enforcement should be aware of the possible scam, please call our office and report it. Many times the caller ID on your phone shows that it is a local number or seems to be the number to a legitimate business, but do not trust it. Many scammers use numbers and piggy back off of legit numbers to get you to trust them and give your money to them. For more information on scam phone calls, please visit the Federal Trade Commission website at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0208-phone-scams>

On August 1st, 2019 the new Hands Free Law went into effect. This law states that a driver cannot hold a cell phone in their hands while driving or in the flow of traffic, and must use a voice command hands free device or answer the phone with only one touch. Our department has seen numerous violations to this new law and has written numerous citations. The fine for a first offense is \$135 and a second or subsequent violation is \$360. Please put the phone down or use a hands free device to talk on the phone if you must. **If our officers see you violating this law, you will be cited.** Distracted driving is a leading cause of crashes and injuries, and our department wants to see everyone make it to their destination safely. For more information, visit: <https://dps.mn.gov/DIVISIONS/OTS/HANDS-FREE/Pages/default.aspx>

The City of Motley has a drop box to dispose of unwanted prescriptions located in the entryway at City Hall. Medication must be kept in their original container and personal information should be removed or covered up with black marker. Residents can drop off their unused or expired medications so that they can be disposed of safely and properly. The box is accessible during normal business hours at City Hall.



Please remember to drive safely this winter season and give yourself extra time to reach your destination.

Notes from the Public Works Department

Please note that City Ordinance indicates carts are supposed to be placed for pickup no earlier than 6:00 p.m. of the evening preceding the collection day and no later than 6:00 a.m. on collection day to ensure your pickup is not missed. Remember to face the lid opening toward the street or alley (handle toward house) and place carts approximately 3 feet apart to allow for mechanical pickup. Please remove carts after collection on the same day unless otherwise directed by City Hall. Carts should be removed from curbside during all other times. ***This is especially important now that the plows are out!*** Also, ***please remember to only place RECYCLABLES (not trash) in your recycling cart!*** IF YOU HAVE MORE TRASH THAN FITS IN YOUR CART, please contact Long Prairie Sanitation directly to arrange pick-up of additional bags.

*The **ICE SKATING RINK** located at the Pet Stop and Recreation Area behind the BP station is iced and ready to go! There are a limited number of skates in the warming house available for public use; remember to return the skates when you are done so others may enjoy them as well. Thanks to a grant from the Staples-Motley Area Community Foundation, there is now music at the rink! Please be respectful. The **SLEDDING HILL** located in the Motley Industrial Park west of Curtis Street is also available for winter fun. Please be respectful and take care of our parks!*



SAVE OUR PIPES: DON'T FLUSH THE WIPES!

Remember to be careful of what you flush down the toilet. Just because a product says that it is flushable doesn't make it so (including 'flushable' wipes!). **Human waste and toilet paper are the only things we should be flushing.** We can all help to prevent problems with our sewers.

Senior Nutrition

Diner's Club (a program of Lutheran Social Service) meal tickets are available for purchase at City Hall for adults 60+ and their spouses. *Program registration is required; the form is available at City Hall.* Suggested donation is now **\$5.00** per ticket, and you may purchase more than one ticket at a time. If you would like more information about this program, including additional locations that accept Club tickets, please call 1-800-488-4146 or visit <https://www.lssmn.org/services/older-adults/nutrition-and-health/diners-clubs>.



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