



# NEWSLETTER

*Fall/Winter 2023*    [cityofmotley.com](http://cityofmotley.com)    *September 26, 2023*

## Important Dates

**October 14<sup>th</sup>: Fall Fest:** Motley Fair Grounds - 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>: Trunk or Treat** – Motley United Methodist Church Parking Lot - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Trick or Treat** – Motley businesses will be handing out treats. Watch for the orange pumpkins in participating business windows.

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

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Thanksgiving:** City Hall closed

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** Last day to payoff special assessments without interest for 2023

**December 9<sup>th</sup>: Santa Day** – Motley United Methodist Church – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Lunch with Santa** – Motley City Hall – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>: Truth in Taxation Meeting** – 6:30 p.m. at City Hall

**December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas:** City Hall closed

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Day:** City Hall closed

**January 15<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** City Hall closed

**February 19<sup>th</sup>: President's Day:** City Hall closed

**Regular City Council Work Sessions: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, 5:30 pm, City Hall**

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

**Regular Planning Commission Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 5:15 pm, City Hall**

## City Contact Information

### **Planning & Zoning:**

Jake Huebsch

[jake.huebsch@sourcewell-mn.gov](mailto:jake.huebsch@sourcewell-mn.gov)

218-895-4205

507-508-0004

### **Public Works:**

Bruce Brotherton

[motleyshop@brainerd.net](mailto:motleyshop@brainerd.net)

218-352-6649

218-839-2140

### **City Hall:**

[cityofmotley@brainerd.net](mailto:cityofmotley@brainerd.net)

218-352-6200

### **Council:**

Pat O'Regan

[motleycouncil.pato@gmail.com](mailto:motleycouncil.pato@gmail.com)

218-839-4147

Steve Johnson

[motleycouncil.stevej@gmail.com](mailto:motleycouncil.stevej@gmail.com)

218-352-6630

Nikki Bjerga

[motleycouncil.nikki@gmail.com](mailto:motleycouncil.nikki@gmail.com)

218-296-0441

## From the Administration Office

Due to staff turnover, City Hall will most likely not have regular office hours until new administrative staff is hired. If you have any questions or concerns, call City Hall and leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Contact information is on the front page. Thank you for your patience during this time!

Utility payments can be dropped off in the drop box outside of City Hall, mailed to City Hall at 316 Hwy 10 S, Motley, MN 56466, or paid online with a credit card at

<https://www.govpaynow.com//gps/user/plc/a0013m> or by following the link and instructions on your utility bill. Please note, there are service fees for using a credit card.



The City of Motley is currently hiring for a Clerk-Treasurer, Administrative/Accounting Assistant, Police Chief, and Police Officer. If you are interested in any of these positions please submit a resume, cover letter, and application (additional supplemental application for police department) to City Hall at 316 Hwy 10 S, Motley, MN 56466 or email to [cityofmotley@brainerd.net](mailto:cityofmotley@brainerd.net). Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Job descriptions and applications can be found on the city website at [www.cityofmotley.com](http://www.cityofmotley.com).



## From the Motley Police Department

### Winter Travel Safety

Winter will soon be upon us and with that comes snow- and ice-covered roads. Below are a few tips to make your winter traveling a little safer for everyone.

1. Make sure that your vehicle is ready for the season. Have it serviced by a reputable company and make sure to have the battery tested. Check to make sure all of the lights work, the windshield wipers are in good condition, the cooling system is full and never let your gas tank get below ¼ tank (1/2 tank minimum is suggested).
2. Make sure that your tires have good tread on them. It is very important for all 4 tires to have good tread to assist with proper steering and stopping, and make sure they are properly filled with air. Snow and ice tires work the best, but a good set of all-season tires will work well if properly taken care of.
3. Make sure to keep winter survival items in the vehicle. You should carry a small snow shovel, broom and ice scraper, kitty litter for traction in case you get stuck in the snow, warning devices or flares, jumper cables, blankets, flashlight, water and food, and a fully charged cell phone.
4. Give yourself plenty of EXTRA TIME. The worst thing you can do on roads with poor conditions is rush. SLOW DOWN and watch out for emergency vehicles, tow trucks, and snow removal trucks. Give them plenty of space to keep everyone safe. NEVER use cruise control if the roads may be wet, slippery, or covered with ice, as it will cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
5. If you are involved in an accident, move your vehicle to a safe location out of the traffic lane, onto a shoulder, a nearby cross street, or into a nearby parking lot if mechanically possible. Do not remain in the roadway as you become a safety hazard to everyone else on the roadway, and pose a danger of being struck by another passing vehicle. Moving a short distance to a safe location is not fleeing the scene of an accident. After moving to a safe location, call 911 and report the accident and tell them where you are.
6. Call 511 or visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org) before leaving on a trip to get current road conditions.

### 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, cross-bow, 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.**

### Halloween Safety Tips

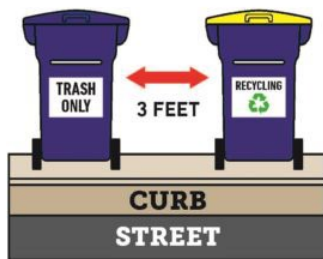
The Motley Police Department looks forward to Halloween and seeing all of the local kids dressing up and having a good time. We want to make sure that kids enjoy going from house to house and everyone stays safe, so here are some safety tips for everyone to remember:

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.

### Garbage/Recycling Containers

Every Wednesday (may differ during a Holiday week) is garbage pickup day, and every other week includes recycling. The City has been having some issues with residents and their garbage containers where residents are not placing them out to the curb correctly, or not removing them from the curb in a timely manner. With winter fast approaching, it causes even more issues for the City crew plowing snow if everyone doesn't follow the City ordinance which states, that all garbage and recycling containers must be placed behind the curb line, cannot be placed out until after 6pm the day before pickup, and have to be removed and stored in or by a building by 6am the day following pickup. This helps us prevent the snow removal trucks from having to plow around containers or hitting them with their trucks which causes damage. Please help the drivers out by following these rules.

Place carts behind the curb, with the lid opening facing the street.





## From the Public Works Department

### **NOTICE OF MANDATORY WATER METER REPLACEMENT**

The City of Motley will be replacing all water meters in town starting as soon as the replacement meters arrive. Replacement of the water meter is mandatory, takes about 25-45 minutes, and is at no cost to the homeowner. The water meter is usually located in the lower level or utility room of your home or business. Either Bruce or Bryan will need to gain entry to your home or business to access the water meter.

#### Important notes:

- The area around your water meter must be clear and accessible.
- Your water service will be temporarily interrupted during the installation.
- It will be helpful if both valves are functional when we do the installation.
- Check the operation of both valves before and after the water meter for leaks and operability.
- To repair defective valves, you can schedule a plumber or make the repairs yourself.
- The valves and all plumbing in the home are the responsibility of the homeowner.
- The city is not liable for repairs of defective valves or plumbing.
- The property owner is responsible for all repair work to the valve or plumbing in the home.
- There is no charge for the meter installation or for water shutdowns at the curb-stop.
- We will make every effort to reinsulate meters under trailer houses or outdoors, but it will ultimately be the homeowners' responsibility to make sure that the meter is protected from freezing.



The new meters that will be installed will no longer have cheap frost bottoms to protect them from extensive damage from freezing, so moving forward the cost to replace a frozen meter will be around \$200.

Please make sure that we have current contact information on file so we can reach you regarding this meter replacement. You can email your contact info to [motleyshop@brainerd.net](mailto:motleyshop@brainerd.net) or leave a message at 218-352-6649. Please include your name, address and a good phone number.

Thank You,  
Bruce Brotherton – Public Works Director

#### **Winter Parking**

As the winter season is arriving, the Public Works Department would like to remind all residents to be mindful of garbage cans and 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.

#### **Fall Cleanup Day**

Thanks to Region Five Development Commission, Sourcewell, and the Motley Lions Club for their donations to support our Energy and Environment Plan, we are offering a FALL CLEANUP DAY! See insert for more information.

Depending on the weather, fall hydrant flushing will likely begin later on in October, so you may notice reduced water pressure and colored water while that is being done.

#### **HYDRANT FLUSHING**

# **From the Motley Fire Department**

## ***DON'T FALL FOR THESE AUTUMN FIRE SAFETY RISKS***

Source: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/dont-fall-for-these-autumn-fire-safety-risks>

### **Campfire Safety**

According to the National Fire Protection Association, campfire accidents send thousands to the emergency room with [burn](#) injuries each year. "Fire safety should be a priority for all adults who plan on lighting campfires or use fire in their homes for cooking and warmth," says Fisher.

**Next time you're huddled around the fire, stay cozy and safe with these tips:**



- Be sure you are at least 25 feet away from structures or anything else that can burn before building a fire. Choose an open, level location and clear away any dry leaves and sticks, overhanging branches and shrubs.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. Instead, use a match or lighter to ignite tinder (small twigs and dry leaves); add larger sticks and pieces of dry wood.
- Keep the fire small and controlled, and never leave it unattended.
- Do not stand too close to the fire or play around it, and do not attempt to jump over it. Keep an eye on children and pets so they don't get too close to the flames either.

Keep a hose, a bucket of water, or a shovel and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire once you're finished. Be sure the fire is completely out before leaving the site — any remaining embers could ignite, with disastrous consequences.

### **Halloween Decorations and Fire Safety**

Dried flowers, crepe paper, cornstalks and decorative scarecrows may make your home look festive for fall, but these classic decorations can also pose a scary fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association says flammable decorations are the first things to ignite in 900 reported home fires each year; two of every five of these incidents start by a candle.

**Decorate safely and keep these tips in mind:**

- Don't put decorations near open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Check that any decorative lights have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Examine each set of lights for broken sockets, frayed wires or loose connections, and discard any damaged sets. Be careful not to overload sockets when plugging in lights and other electronic decorations.
- Consider glow sticks or battery-operated candles instead of real candles when lighting your jack-o'-lanterns or other luminaries. If you do use real candles, light them with long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Keep lit decorations off of doorsteps, yards and sidewalks where excited trick-or-treaters may knock them over.
- Check that no decorations are blocking your home's exits or pathways, so you have a clear escape route in case of an emergency.



**To make sure children enjoy their evening of trick-or-treating, follow these tips:**

- Avoid costumes with loose, trailing fabrics or other hanging parts, which can catch fire on open flames. Check the labels on costumes, wigs and props to be sure they are made with flame resistant or retardant materials.
- Double-check that the eyeholes in masks are large enough that children can see and avoid any trips or falls, or brushes with open flames. If visibility is an issue, use makeup or face paint instead of masks.
- Provide flashlights or glow sticks to carry for lighting, and use glow-in-the-dark reflective tape on costumes for extra visibility near roads.

- Talk with children about [fire safety](#) before heading out, reminding them to stay away from open flames.
- Practice the “stop, drop and roll” technique. “This is a great time of the year for adults to teach children about fire safety, as well as first aid measures if someone gets hurt,” Fisher says.

## Burning Leaves Safely

Falling leaves are often the first signs of the seasonal shift — and of more yardwork. As the piles of raked leaves build up, you’re faced with a new problem: how to dispose of them.

A popular method of disposal is to burn them. And if you’re burning leaves, it may be tempting to throw trash onto the pile, such as household garbage, construction debris or old papers. “While leaves and grass clippings can be disposed of through burning, we caution against burning trash, which can result in unpredictable explosions and emit toxic fumes,” says Fisher.

Burning materials such as yard waste, grass clippings and leaves may be permissible depending on your town’s ordinances on open burning. Do not use flammable liquids to ignite the debris. Keep an eye on the fire at all times and be prepared to extinguish it at any moment — if the wind picks up or the weather changes, an open burning can quickly get out of control.

### Safe alternatives to burning leaves include:

- **Recycling.** Tree limbs, grass clippings, leaves and brush can be composted, mulched or chipped into landscaping material.
- **Calling a yard waste or junk removal service.** They will take the debris to the dump or recycling center.

## How to Treat a Burn

Accidents sometimes happen despite our best efforts to practice fire safety, so it’s good to be prepared. Should you experience a painful burn, contact your doctor or go to the emergency room for care.



## **FIREFIGHTERS WANTED!**

The Motley Fire Department is accepting applications 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 \$11.00 for each call/meeting/training attended. Fully vested members of the Fire Department Relief Association receive \$3,000/year of active service upon retirement. Applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications are available at City Hall and on the city website.

# Community Events



## FALL FEST MOTLEY MN • 2023

October 14, 2023

*At the Motley Fair Grounds*

*Please see insert for more details*

Have old eye glasses just taking  
up space in a drawer?



Motley Lions is collecting old eye  
glasses. There is a drop box for  
them at the Unity Bank in Motley.

## BINGO!

The Motley Lions will be hosting bingo at Ten-Hi every Sunday  
through April beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m.

**Also find them at Fall Fest on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.**



Motley United Methodist Church is again hosting Community Pancake Breakfasts on  
the last Saturday of each month from 8-10 a.m. beginning in September and running  
through April. There is no charge, and this is a wonderful opportunity for members of  
the community to come together and share a meal! There will be a donation basket to  
support other good works.

## October 31<sup>st</sup>

Trunk or Treat will be at the Motley Methodist Church  
from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All residents are invited to set up in the parking lot, decorate their trunk, wear a costume,  
and hand out treats!



Businesses that are participating in handing out candy on Halloween will have an orange  
pumpkin in their window. Look for a list at the local businesses of which businesses will  
be participating.

Stop at participating businesses on October 31<sup>st</sup> for a treat!





## Let's Light Up Motley for the Holidays!

There will be a home and business Christmas Decorating Contest sponsored by the Motley Community Events Organization and Motley Lions. Prizes will be given for the "Best Decorations", "Best Use of Lights" and "Best Decorated Business". Judging will be done on the evening of December 15th with someone outside our community doing the judging.



### Ice Skating Rink

Once it's cold enough to flood the tennis court, the Motley Lions will have a warming house outside the skating rink.

Don't have ice skates? No problem! There are ice skates in the building that the children can use. For children just learning to skate, there will be "skating assist" for use.

If you have ice skates you are no longer using, please consider donating them. Just leave them in the warming house.



### Ice Skating Rink

Don't forget the sledding hill west of the water tower!



Stop by Motley United Methodist Church for Santa's Day. This is a great opportunity for kids to pick out gifts for their family and have them wrapped!

December 9, 2023

10am – 1pm



December  
9th

Don't miss *Lunch with Santa*!

This event will be held at  
Motley City Hall from 11am to 1pm  
Pictures can be taken with Santa

Hosted by the Motley Lion's Club

