



# April 2024 Newsletter

## Mayor's Message



Hello friends and neighbors,

As we welcome the season of renewal and growth, I am excited to share with you some updates and reflections on our wonderful city and community. Spring is a time for us to come together, reflect on our shared values, renew friendships, and extend a warm welcome to new residents joining our vibrant community.

You may have noticed the rejuvenation of a few of our community spaces, with the freshly repainted and cleaned community building, City Hall, and Sunday School building standing as symbols Mountain Park's commitment to maintaining a welcoming environment for all. These improvements reflect Mountain Parks dedication to creating a beautiful and inviting community for everyone to enjoy.

In the near future, we will be focusing on addressing several much-needed projects such as ditches, erosion problems, and street repairs. The efforts will not only enhance the aesthetics of our City, but also play a crucial role in improving stormwater management and preserving the beauty of our lakes.

It is with a heavy heart that I must share the unfortunate loss of Queenie, our beloved feathered friend, who tragically fell victim to a speeding car. This serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of driving with caution, especially during this time of the year when our ducks and geese are welcoming their precious babies into the world. Let us all take extra precautions while driving to ensure the safety of our wildlife and community members.

On a positive note, I am thrilled to announce the formation of the Traffic Task Force Committee, aimed at addressing the ongoing safety concerns related to traffic in Mountain Park. I am hopeful that this committee will find innovative solutions to one of our biggest public safety issues.

As we embrace the spirit of spring, let us come together as a community, support one another, and work towards creating a safe and harmonious environment for all. Wishing you a season filled with joy, growth, and unity.

Stay Well,

Mayor Bill

# Civic Club News

Mountain Park Civic Club invites you to join us in 2024, mark your calendars for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Civic Club is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and enjoy planning, and supporting your community through various service activities, projects, and fun community events.

Our upcoming meeting is **Tuesday, April 9th @ 7PM** in the community building.

Yearly membership is \$5.00/person or \$15.00 per family of 3 or more.

Please join us for not one but two exciting events this month:



## MPVFR MESSAGE



### Meet first responder Paul (PJ) Bednarz



Paul, better known as PJ, is originally from Chicago where family members started the first fire department in his hometown in the late 1800s. His father was a Firefighter Lieutenant, and his uncle was a Fire Chief. When the family made its way to Georgia, PJ and his father joined Mountain Park Volunteer Fire Rescues (MPVFR) where PJ trained as a volunteer firefighter. They served together from 2003 to 2006. PJ's love of MPVFR was his motivation to pursue a career in public safety.

PJ moved to Florida and completed training at the Firefighter Academy, became a nationally registered paramedic licensed in Florida and Georgia and completed his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is also a certified PADI Master Scuba Diver, which includes rescue diving, and further demonstrates his commitment to helping others in emergency situations.

Additionally, as a Level I CPR instructor, he is equipped to teach others vital life-saving techniques. PJ formed his own company, Movie Medics LLC, in 2008. He provides paramedic services in the film industry and has worked with many stars, including Oprah, Robert Dinero, John Travolta, and Ice Cube. This combination of skills makes PJ highly versatile in emergency response and public safety scenarios.

PJ returned to Georgia and rejoined MPVFR during COVID. PJ states, "I heard the department needed help and I wanted to give back to the organization that started my career." PJ is passionate about public safety. Responding, mitigating, and solving dangerous situations are crucial aspects of this field. It requires quick thinking, a calm demeanor, and a deep understanding of safety protocols.

PJ embodies the spirit of selflessness and service that characterizes the best of volunteer first responders. His story serves as an inspiration to us all. PJ, thank you for your service to the residents of the City of Mountain Park.

**Mountain Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue needs you! There are many ways to help besides learning to fight fires. Email [recruiting@mpvfr.org](mailto:recruiting@mpvfr.org) or [craig.miceli@mpvfr.org](mailto:craig.miceli@mpvfr.org). Your community needs you.**



# Know Your City Code Code Enforcement in Mountain Park



Here is a quick reminder to those that have not applied for building permits to visit City Hall or go online and apply for the necessary permit(s).

Per the Mountain Park Code of Ordinance, Subpart B – Development Regulations, Chapter 101, Article, Section 101-7:

(a)(1):

*When required.* Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the construction codes, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required **permit** for the work. A **permit** shall not be issued to an owner, who is neither a licensed contractor nor the occupant of a residential structure being altered.

Please be mindful of this part of the Mountain Park Code of Ordinance. If you have any questions, please refer to the codebook on the Mountain Park website, reach out to City Hall. We will be more than happy to assist you.

Also, if you would like to report any possible violations or observances, please feel free to email [Code.Compliance@mountainparkgov.com](mailto:Code.Compliance@mountainparkgov.com).

One last thing, if you have a tree (or group of trees) that you will need to cut, please email me (cc. City Hall) photos of the tree(s). That way we can advise you on whether you will need a permit or not before cutting.

Thank you all,

M. Peck

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Peck', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**A Tree Removal Application must be completed and approved by the City before removing trees from your property.**

**Specimen tree** means trees which qualify for special consideration due to their size and type. The following size and condition criteria are used to identify specimen trees; except as expressly provided herein, both the size and condition criteria must be met for a tree to be considered a specimen tree:

Size criteria:

- Pine Trees: 30-inch diameter or larger
- Overstory Trees (Excluding Pines): 24-inch diameter or larger
- Understory Trees (Excluding Pines): 8-inch diameter or larger

Condition criteria:

- Greater than 15 years life expectancy, Trunk is relatively sound and solid with no extensive decay,
- Free of major dead limbs, and free of major insect or pathological problem.

**Sec. 105-202. - Purpose and intent of article.**

The city deems it necessary and desirable in the interest of public health, safety and welfare to enact an ordinance for the conservation, planting and replacement of trees and to prevent the indiscriminate removal of trees in the city without denying the reasonable use and enjoyment of real property. The importance of trees is recognized for their shade, cooling, noise and wind reduction, soil erosion prevention, oxygen production, dust filtration, carbon dioxide absorption, aesthetic and economic enhancement of all real property, and their contribution to the general wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens of the city. Consistent with the expressed purpose of this article, all persons shall make reasonable efforts to preserve and retain existing, self-supporting trees. It is also the intent of this article that all applicable lots within the city maintain or obtain a minimum tree density.

**Sec. 105-203. - Exemptions.**

- (a) The following shall be exempt from the provisions of this article:
  - (1) The removal of trees with a four-inch caliper or less, provided that the removal does not reduce the tree density of the lot below the minimum specified in section 105-206.
  - (2) The necessary removal of trees within dedicated utility easements by the utility company having the easement.
  - (3) The removal of trees on public rights-of-way (and adjacent areas within the construction limits of rights-of-way) conducted by, on behalf of, or any activity pursuant to work to be dedicated to, a federal, state, county, municipal or other governmental agency in pursuance of its lawful activities or functions in the construction or improvement of public rights-of-way.
  - (4) The removal of trees from lakes and drainage easements.
  - (5) The removal of any tree which has become or threatens to become a danger to human life or property.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, all reasonable efforts shall be made to save specimen trees.

**Sec. 105-204. - Approval letter required for nondevelopment activity (activity which does not require a building permit).**

- (a) Except for routine or seasonal pruning or transplanting of trees, and except as exempted in section 105-203, no person shall engage in any nondevelopment activity without first obtaining an approval letter. The request for an approval letter shall be submitted to the city and shall be, unless waived by the city clerk, in the form of a brief, written narrative stating the reason for the proposed work and include either a site sketch or photograph of the tree proposed to be removed, identifying such tree by size and species. If the application is complete, complies with this article, and requests tree removal for one of the purposes identified in subsection (b) of this section, the city shall issue an approval letter not later than 30 working days from receipt of a complete request, and shall inform the applicant if replanting will be required. If the application is incomplete or denied, the city shall notify the applicant in writing regarding the specific reason for denial.
- (b) The city shall allow submittal of dated photographs instead of an approval letter for the following if a letter of approval or denial has not been issued within 30 working days:
  - (1) The removal of dead, substantially injured, damaged or diseased trees; and
  - (2) The removal of trees occupied within ten feet to the side, front or rear of an existing authorized structure, provided that the applicable minimum tree density requirement is maintained.

# IMPORTANT DATES

April 3rd.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

April 3rd.....City Court @ 7pm

April 9th.....Civic Club Meeting @ 7pm

April 10th.....Work Session @ 7pm

**FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen Participation is welcome – Please give at least 72 hours advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.**

April 22nd..... Regular Council @ 7pm

## **\*\*REMINDER\*\***

Water bills are due by the last day of every month. Please use the drop box at City Hall or pay online at [https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign\\_in](https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign_in). Payments received on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month or later will be assessed with a \$25 late fee. The City is not responsible for any payment received after the 1<sup>st</sup> that are sent by mail.

## **\*\*REMINDER\*\***

### **\*\*IMPORTANT CHANGE--TRASH PICK-UP IS NOW MONDAY.\*\***

Please ensure you put your trash and recycle cans out the night before after 6pm or by 6am on Sunday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 9am on Tuesday. No garbage will be taken that is left outside of the trash containers. Legacy Disposal WILL pick-up 3-yard waste bags left outside the can. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed, please contact City Hall Tuesday morning before 9am by calling 770-993-4231 or emailing [utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com](mailto:utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com).

## **WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2024**

You can now view the City of Mountain Park's Consumer Confidence Water Quality report on our website at the following web address [www.mountainparkgov.com](http://www.mountainparkgov.com). You can also review the report at City Hall if you are unable to access it online or prefer a paper copy.