



## Reminders And Information January 2016

### KNOW YOUR CITY CODE



We are using this section of our newsletter to familiarize residents with content found in the official City Code book. We will periodically print selected sections. See back for additional City Code. For a full version of the City's Code, please visit [www.mountainpark-ga.gov](http://www.mountainpark-ga.gov).

#### Section 54-125 Businesses Required Information

All businesses and practitioners doing business within the city shall provide to the city clerk (or a designated officer) of the city:

- (1) The address of any location or office maintained by such business or practitioner within the city;
- (2) A description of the business or types of business conducted or occupation or profession performed at all such locations; and
- (3) The payment of any business or occupation tax or regulatory fee to any other city, county or state.

The City of Mountain Park requires Home Businesses to obtain a business license each year. This is due by January 31, 2016. If you have your business registered with another city or have discontinued this business please provide documentation by January 31, 2016.

A Home Business License is required when:

1. A corporation registered with the Secretary of State with a Mountain Park Address
2. A DBA registered with the Superior Court with a Mountain Park address
3. A Website with a Mountain Park address

**Your business is required to register with the City for a Business License and pay Occupation Taxes on January 1 of each year and is delinquent if not registered and paid by January 31 of each year.**

**If a business does not file by this date** Penalties shall be 100 percent of the payment due, plus accrued interest of 1.5 percent per month of the total due. If a business is found to be in non-compliance by the Code Compliance Officer, the court, may issue a fine in an amount not exceeding \$5,000.00 or imprisoned not exceeding 15 days imprisonment, either or both, in the discretion of the municipal judge.

Any person who may engage in casual or isolated activity and commercial transactions, where they involve personal assets only and are not the principal occupation of the individual, shall not require a business license. Projects involving less than \$500.00 shall not require a business license. **In all cases it is up to the individual to ensure that he is in compliance with all requirements set forth in this Code.**

**If you had a business license with the City last year, an application will be mailed to you. If you have a home business and it was not registered last year, please do so by January 31, 2016 deadline.**

*Happy New Year to all! Please join us this Wednesday evening for the swearing-in of your newly elected council members. All citizens are welcomed to attend as well as county and state elected officials have been invited. Also look for a series of "Town Hall" meetings in the coming months to discuss some of the key issues brought forward in the recent elections.*

*I wish everyone in our community a Healthy & Happy New Year.*

*Sincerely,  
Jim Still, Jr.*

## **Closings for January**

- **January 18, 2016 City Hall will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King JR Day.**
- **Work Session: January 20, 2016**
- **Council Meeting: January 25, 2016**

**\*\*\*Please be aware that new fishing license and boating license will need to be obtained for the 2016 year in order to put boats on and lines in the water!\*\*\***

### **Make Sure You Heat your Home Safely**

Heating equipment is a leading cause to home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.

- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment and have chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy.

*Trucks and Large Vehicles – Please keep in mind that the City of Mountain Park has extremely narrow streets. Heavy equipment is not maneuverable on some of these streets. If you have contractors working at your residence, please determine and communicate the best route to take to get to your residence and please remind them to not park on the streets during construction.*

**SIREN TEST** – There is a Siren Test the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00 noon.

**Preventing Brush Fires** – The City of Mountain Park has a ban on outdoor burning. Here are some common ways that Brush fires are started:

- *Equipment fires such as from lawnmowers, ATV's, power equipment*
- *Smoking*
- *Carelessly discarding fireplace or BBQ ashes.*

### **DUMPSTER INFO**

As a service to our residents, the City of Mountain Park provides a dumpster on the first Saturday of every month. ***This is on a first come, first serve basis.*** In order to ensure that it is available to all please adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
- ✓ One truckload or trailer load per residence.
- ✓ All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less
- ✓ There is a Metal Recycler onsite to take scrap metal.
- ✓



### **UTILITY PAYMENTS**

**The city is not responsible for U.S. mail delivery or problems with email.** If a bill is not received before the end of the month, the customer shall contact City Hall for billing information and pay the bill in a timely manner. If you feel that you are not able to meet your deadline to pay your bill, please contact City Hall to make payment arrangements to avoid interruption of service.

If the utility bill is not paid by the due date, a \$25.00 late penalty will be assessed. **Late fees are automatically generated by Utility Software if payment is not received by 9:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.** If the entire utility bill remains unpaid fifteen days after the due date, utility service will be subjected to disconnection without further notice. After shut-off, the customer will be required to pay the total amount due on the bill in order to reinstate service.

Starting in January, customers using under 1,250 gallons will be billed at half the rate for water and sewer, if applicable. In essence, a conservation tier has been created for those individuals who use less than 1,250 gallons. Please look for this on the February bill.



Heron House Invitation:

It goes without saying that the Heron House doors are always open to everyone, but I wanted to extend a special invite to the community to hear our guest speaker Orrin Hudson, founder of Be Someone.

He will share his journey of being at a crossroads and considered an “at risk youngster” in his life and how he overcame that. This is a talk about mentorship, vision and knowing there is hope for everyone, but sometimes we need a little help...a reminder. This is what happened to Orrin when a teacher saw something in him he couldn't see, and forever changed his life.

I imagine he never dreamed that one day, he would be a state trooper and eventually the founder of a NFP organization that mentors our youth.

This is a terrific opportunity for people in mentoring positions such as teachers, police officers and parents as well.

We welcome everyone to join us:  
Sunday, January 17th at 1:30p.m.

Thank you,

Julie West, Director  
Phone: 404.434.4030