



Reminders And Information January 2014

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.

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, 2014. If you have your business registered with another city or have discontinued this business please provide documentation by January 31, 2014.

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, 2014 deadline.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR

**Next Dumpster Day
February 1, 2014**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would like to sincerely thank all those who participated in our annual Santa Run. I also want to thank everyone who attended our annual potluck dinner. It was a true example of the community spirit we are so fortunate to have in Mountain Park.

I wish you and your family excellent health, abundant laughter and plentiful fortune for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Jim Still, Jr.

COUNCIL NEWS

The City Council meets on the 4th Monday night of each month. These meetings are open to the public. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2014.

City Hall Hours

City Hall is open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p. m. except on Wednesday. Wednesday hours are from 9:00 until noon. We appreciate your respecting these hours.

Closings before the Next Newsletter- City Hall will be closed on January 20 in observance of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

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.

HIGH WATER USAGE

As a courtesy to our customers, we send a high usage letter to customers to make them aware of possible leaks. By making the customer aware, City Hall Staff is attempting to help the customer, not create an adversarial situation.

Per our leak adjustment policy it is not the City's responsibility to find or repair leaks on the customer's side of the meter. Generally, a high usage letter is sent after the City has verified that the leak is on the customer side of the meter. If a customer does not believe there is a leak or chooses not to call a plumber or leak detection service, the city will charge the usage indicated on the meter. If the customer finds a leak, he may appeal the bill through our Leak Adjustment Policy. The customer must act in a timely manner to discover and repair the leak and he/she has a minimum of 30 days but no more than 60 days after discovery of leak to repair the leak and request an adjustment.

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 any month, the customer shall contact the city hall for billing information and pay the bill in a timely manner based upon the information received from City Hall.

If an entire utility service 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 2nd of the month.*** If the entire utility service bill remains unpaid ten days after the due date, utility service may be shut-off disconnected without further notice. After shut-off, any unpaid balance may be paid from the customer's deposit, and renewed service may be conditioned upon the customer making a new deposit and paying a reconnection charge.

INCREASE IN UTILITY RATES

Please be advised that the City Council has voted to increase the water/sewer rates by \$.25 per 1000 gallons and said increase will be reflected in the bills you will receive starting in February 2014.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The City of Mountain Park will be holding two Town Hall Meetings per year so that the residents can ask questions, make comments and generally get information of things going on in the City. The first meeting is to be held on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Building to discuss infrastructure. We urge all residents to attend.

VISIT OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE

John Albers, who is our State of Georgia representative, will be paying the City of Mountain Park a visit on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Building to inform and discuss upcoming legislation.

NEW RESIDENTS

We are excited to announce that our own City Clerk, Karen Segars, was married to Tag Bridges in a small ceremony on December 21, 2013. They have just returned from their honeymoon in Florida and are looking forward to starting their new life together here in Mountain Park. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tag Bridges and we wish you many, many years of happiness.

On a sad note, we would like to express our sympathies in the passing of one of our residents, Susan Peralta-Hayes of Cedar Street. Our thoughts are with her friends and family at this difficult time.