



# October 2020 Newsletter

## Mayor's Message



We are heading into the final quarter of the incredible year of 2020 and I know it is not going out like a lamb. With the election coming up in November the future will continue to be unpredictable and tenuous until the “dust” settles and the true winner is determined.

With the ongoing COVID crisis and the civil unrest in this country, I am grateful that under the circumstances the City of Mountain Park has had very few confirmed cases or direct affects and remains a sanctuary for its citizens. Please continue to stay diligent with the policy of wearing a mask when you can and observe the 6-10 (6 ft. apart - 10 people or less) rule as much as possible.

Have a safe and scary fun Halloween.  
Jim Still



Happy  
  
Halloween



# MPVFR MESSAGE



It is officially fall. I like to call it autumn myself. But during this time, we can all look forward to the beautiful cornucopia of colors as the leaves change and the blooming of Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Purple Fountain Grass, and the Black-Eyed Susans. Oh, and let's not forget the pumpkins! Pumpkin granola, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin bread, roasted pumpkin hummus, pumpkin pies, roasted pumpkin seeds, and let's not forget the pumpkin spice.

Hmm... Speaking of spice, I am reminded of William Cowper's quote from The Task that says, "Variety is the spice of life, that gives it all its flavor." What spice? What variety has each of you added as a part of your acclimating to how things have changed?

Have you sat back and stayed stagnant? Or have you added something different? Changed your hairstyle? Hair color? Lost some weight? Taking some online class? Whatever it was, keep it up! You're going strong. We're at the homestretch of the year and this is the time for what I like to call "fun eating." And I don't know about you but I'm going to have some fun. Well sort of... I'm on the keto diet... So, yeah... There's that.

Last month, I spoke about us being on "Cruise Control" and trying to break from it. That's where the variety, the spice comes in. If you haven't already done so by now, find your spice. Explore the possibilities of what it could be and what you can do to spice up your life. That variety can and will prevent you from succumbing to the stagnancy. Stay away from the rabbit holes and explore! But explore safely though.

Places are still opening up and there are more COVID safety procedures being put into place and practiced. It's a great feeling to see how we have made it through to this part of the year and we're still going strong. We're almost there Mountain Park! We're almost to 2021 and we're doing great. Continue lifting each other. Be strong, stay strong, and let's continue holding it in the road.

Remember to continue practicing social distancing as much as possible. Wear your masks while in public. Wash your hands before touching your face and eating. Cover your coughs and sneezes into the bend of your elbow. Check on the elderly in your families. And please, please, PLEASE stay positive. Stay strong. And let us all continue to move forward.

We at MPVFR stand for you, beside you, and behind you. We are here if you need us and always will be.

*Lieutenant Michael Peck  
EMS Lieutenant  
Mountain Park Volunteer Fire & Rescue*

# Code Enforcement in Mountain Park

## TREE CUTTING WITHOUT A PERMIT....

As the weather cools and the golden colors of fall start to displace the mosquitos, outdoor work starts to become a lot more attractive and enjoyable. If you have been eying one or more trees in your yard that are over 4" in diameter (measured from 4 1/2 feet above the ground) for removal, you'll need to get a permit from City Hall first!

Code section 105-204 spells out the requirement. "No Person" can cut such a tree or trees without an approval letter (permit). Not a big deal: fill out the form, provide supporting documentation (sketch, etc.), and submit it to city hall. The application will be reviewed by Staff as well as the City Arborist.

Here's the downside of cutting without a permit: potentially hefty fines and even jail time. For anyone involved: The homeowner, the tree company, their work crew. Yikes!

We are serious about our trees in Mountain Park, although the codes that have been passed are actually pretty much in alignment with other municipalities in Georgia. The City Council has passed legislation (codes) to underline how important a priority the trees are.

Sooooooo.... if you are a homeowner, please DON'T rely on your tree cutting company to tell you flippantly they have the permit in hand to cut the tree, or that one is not required. Verify! In the eyes of the law you are as responsible as they are if a permit is required but not obtained and the tree is cut down. Check with City Hall before the chainsaw gets fired into life!

Whit Engle

Code Compliance Officer



# Know Your City Code



## ARTICLE III. - TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS, SIGNALS, DEVICES

### Sec. 58-81. - Obedience to traffic signs, signals and markings.

All traffic shall obey and be directed by official traffic control signals, signs and markings erected at street intersections and other locations now or hereafter approved by the mayor and council.

### Sec. 58-82. - General signposting authority.

- (a) The mayor and council are authorized to designate and maintain by appropriate traffic control signs, markings and devices:
- (1) Crosswalks at intersections where there is particular danger to pedestrians crossing the roadway.
  - (2) Other safety zones for pedestrians.
  - (3) Traffic lanes.
  - (4) Speed, parking, truck or other traffic control zones.
  - (5) Stop, yield, one-way and other directional devices.
  - (6) Any other sign, marking, device or zone necessary for orderly and safe conditions on the roads and streets of the city.
- (b) All traffic control signs, signals, devices and markings shall conform to specifications in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices adopted by the state transportation board. All signs and signals required under this chapter for a particular purpose shall so far as practicable be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. All traffic control devices so erected and not inconsistent with the provisions of state law or this Code shall be official traffic control devices of the city.
- (c) No person shall be charged with violating a traffic zone, marking, sign or other traffic control device unless appropriate signs, markings or devices are in fact operating or in existence on the streets involved.
- (d) Any violation of any traffic zone, marking, sign or other traffic control device established under this article shall be a violation of this chapter.

### Sec. 58-83. - Speed limits generally.

- (a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle or tractor upon any of the streets and highways of the city at a greater speed than is reasonable and proper having regard to the width, traffic and use thereof, or so as to endanger the property or life or limb of any person.
- (b) Twenty-five miles per hour shall be the maximum speed limit on all roads and streets or portions thereof within the city unless otherwise indicated by officially posted signs designating the maximum vehicular speed upon those streets as approved by the mayor and city council.

## 2020 CENSUS EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 5TH

The Census has been extended to Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Spread the word to ensure Mountain Park gets an accurate count for 2020. Mountain Park's current response rate is 79.1%.

Remember that everyone living in the United States and its five territories are required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census. Why is the census so important? The results are used to determine how much funding local communities receive for key public services and how many seats each state gets in Congress. State and local officials also use census counts to draw boundaries for congressional, state legislative, and school districts. And while you are required by law to participate, the Census Bureau is also required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information. Please respond today!

Online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)

or

Phone at (844) 330-2020



# IMPORTANT DATES

October 3rd.....Dumpster Day 7am-10am

1. Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
2. ONE TRUCKLOAD OR TRAILER LOAD PER RESIDENCE.
3. All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less.

*Please note that this is a service provided by Waste Pro as a courtesy and the City of Mountain Park does not have any control over what time they arrive/depart or the rate which the dumpster fills and the amount it can hold. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!*

October 7th.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

October 7th.....City Court @ 7pm

October 21st.....Work Session @ 7pm

**FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen Participation is welcome – Please give at least 24 hours advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.**

October 26th.....Regular Council @ 7pm

## The 2019 Water Quality Report for the City of Mountain Park is now available!

You can view it on our website at [mountainparkgov.com](http://mountainparkgov.com) or you can request a copy from City Hall.

### \*\*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 a \$25 late fee.

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

Please ensure you put your cans out the night before after 6pm or by 7am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 8am on Thursday. No yard debris is allowed. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please email City Hall at [utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com](mailto:utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com) or call City Hall at 770-993-4231 on Thursday morning by 12pm.

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

If you see a street light out in the City of Mountain Park please contact City Hall at 770-993-4231 to report it.