



October Newsletter 2019

Mayor's Message



The first day of autumn is here and I know I'm looking forward to some cooler temperatures. We do need some rain desperately for all the new plants on the Green and the distressed trees in our community.

It has been another successful summer for the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge as Gisela transferred numerous monarch caterpillars living on the Green/City Hall to the butterfly plants by the city pool and pavilion. I am proud that our community is contributing to an important conservation organization that promotes butterflies and other pollinators which are essential to our environment for food production.

I also look forward to a successful program in support of the Eastern King Snake called the Urban Kings Project. Please view the attached information in the back of the newsletter to see how you can help this group with their study on the King Snake.

Karen and I continue our participation in the ongoing negotiations between the Cities of Cherokee and the County for a successful and fair Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) for our neighbors on the Cherokee county side of the Lake. We are confident that at the end of this process our Cherokee folks will be paying the proper amount of taxes for the services they receive from the County.

Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!



Jim Still
Mayor

Coffee with your Neighbors - Our last event was such a success, that we've decided to make it a quarterly event! Please join us on September 28 from 9:30-11am for coffee and muffins, and to get to know your neighbors. Pre-ordered shirts and directories can also be picked up at this event.

Harvest Ball - Mark your calendars for the Harvest Ball coming up on October 26th at 6pm at the Community Building. Fun for the whole family, including square dancing lessons and music by David Pardue! \$10 for adults, \$2 for kids 3-12, free for 2 and under. More info will be posted on the Civic Club Facebook page and Nextdoor.

The next Civic Club meeting will be held on October 8th at 7pm in the Community Building.



The MPVFR is extremely pleased to announce the promotion of Sgt. Sara McClimon to the Rank of Operations Lieutenant! Sara has lived in Mountain Park her entire life and has devoted herself to the fire service. She is well loved in the community and the department. In addition to giving her time back to the community through our department, Sara has also been hired full time with Cobb County Fire and is currently attending their recruit training. Upon completion of her training, she will have her EMT-A to go along with her previously obtained Fire Fighter 1 certification. They were joined by her Grandmother the night of September 19th for her promotion ceremony at the station.

MPVFR will be holding a "Boot Drive" for the Georgia Firefighter's Burn Foundation on October 5th. They will be at the corner of Mountain Park Rd. and Woodstock Rd. from 9am - 3pm.

THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

This is a great way to serve your community and a rewarding experience.

Contact: MPVFR@mpvfr.org

Sunday evenings are about to have a new all ages event featuring music from Mountain Park's own Dave Pardue! Bring your entire family over to the green, hang out with some neighbors and enjoy a variety of great music to help wind down the weekend. This will be a weekly event from 4pm-7pm starting on Sunday October 6th and running through Sunday November 10th. Be on the lookout for more information through the Next Door app.

NEW CITY ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 331-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNTAIN PARK, GEORGIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 117 OF THE CITY'S CODE, PERTAINING TO LAND USE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council wish to amend Chapter 117 of the City's Code, pertaining to Land Use, to better regular the appearance of properties in the City in order to protect the aesthetic environment of the City, to protect property values, and to protect traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that such amendments will better protect the public welfare; and that therefore these provisions are necessary to protect the health, safety, and public welfare of the City and its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Mountain Park hereby ordains that Chapter 117 of the Code of the City of Mountain Park, Georgia, shall be amended as follows:

SECTION ONE

Section 117-10 of the Code of Mountain Park, Georgia shall be amended, replaced and restated as follows:

Sec. 117-10. - Appearance of property; parking of recreational vehicles.

(a) No land within the corporate limits of the City, whether or not used for residential structures, shall be used for the collection and deposit of garbage, trash, debris, equipment, appliances, furniture, or derelict or inoperable vehicles. Violation of this section shall be deemed a health hazard and a public nuisance.

(b) No automobile, vehicle or trailer of any kind or type, which is inoperable or without current and valid license and registration, shall be parked or kept on any property unless it shall be in a completely enclosed building, or except as expressly provided herein.

(c) Functional and operational recreational vehicles, campers, boats and trailers may be parked in the side and rear yards of properties. Such vehicles may only be parked in the front yard of properties with a special permit issued by the City council upon consideration of the following factors:

- (1) is there a feasible side or rear yard or an enclosed structure in which the vehicle may be parked; and,
- (2) is there a suitable location in the front yard where the vehicle may be parked, considering traffic safety and the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood?

(d) In all instances where the owner of any junk, inoperative, unregistered, or abandoned motor vehicle and/or trailer refuses to remove, enclose or register (or, if requested, refuses to give consent for the City to remove) any such vehicle or trailer currently in violation of this ordinance, the City shall be empowered to seek an order from a court of competent jurisdiction authorizing the City to remove and dispose of such vehicle or trailer. Such orders shall be authorized if the vehicle has been in violation of this ordinance for more than 20 days.

(e) For purposes of repair or restoration, one inoperable or unregistered vehicle may be kept in the rear yard of a property, provided it is not visible from the street, is screened from all neighbors by a privacy fence in the rear yard, and is repaired or restored, removed, or placed in a fully enclosed building within six months. Such vehicle shall not be stored in any side yard or any setback or buffer area; provided that the City Council may grant a special permit for repair or restoration of one vehicle in a side yard for up to six months after considering Whether there is a feasible alternative location and whether there is appropriate screening available or proposed to protect the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood.

SECTION TWO

All other ordinances and resolutions, or parts of said ordinances or resolutions, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This ordinance amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption, the public welfare demanding; provided that any person currently parking an operational recreational vehicle in violation of this ordinance shall have 30 days after the adoption thereof to relocate the vehicle or apply for a special permit under this ordinance before any citation shall issue.

The provisions of this ordinance are severable; in the event that a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any provision of this ordinance is unlawful or unconstitutional, such provision shall be severed and the remaining provisions of this ordinance remain in force as if adopted separately from the severed portion.



Know Your City Code

Sec. 62-152. - Same—Yard waste collection.

(a) The city encourages persons to compost or mulch their yard waste for use on their property, in preference to using city yard waste services, so long as persons have the space on their property to do so and the process remains odor free.

(b) Yard waste placed in anything other than paper or plastic waste containers and not sealed or properly sized, weighed, bundled and bound in the manner proscribed in this article, will not be picked up.

(c) Collection of yard waste in sealed paper bags or plastic waste containers shall be limited to no more than eight bags, including the trash container, per time of normal waste management service pickup.

(d) Yard waste may be picked up at times different from other waste management service pickup times.

(e) Any changes in collection procedures or definitions contained in this section require the approval of the council and mayor.

(Ord. No. 246-02, § 1, 2-25-2002; Ord. No. 280-05, § 21, 11-21-2005)

Sec. 62-153. - Yard waste to be sorted.

(a) Twigs, grass clippings, pine straw, leaves and other similar, small and light types of yard waste shall be placed in approved paper bags from the city, which shall be sealed with twist ties and collected with normal waste management service pickup.

(b) Branches, heavy brush, tree limbs less than three feet in length and less than six inches in diameter and other similar types of yard waste not exceeding these size specifications shall be cut into lengths not exceeding three feet and tied into bundles not exceeding 50 pounds (22.75 kg.).

(c) Secured bundles of approved yard waste in paper or plastic containers shall be stored out of sight from the neighbors and street until the city's normal weekly waste pick-up times.

(d) Fees for the pick-up of such bundles shall be set by the city council and are payable by the person who orders the pick up when the order for service is requested.

(e) Each person who generates brush, tree limbs and other yard waste outside the definition of this division shall be responsible for its proper disposal.

(Ord. No. 246-02, § 1, 2-25-2002; Ord. No. 280-05, § 22, 11-21-2005)

Sec. 113-192. - Keeping water in which mosquitoes may breed.

(a) It shall be unlawful to have, keep, maintain, cause or permit within the city any collection of standing or flowing water in which mosquitoes breed or are likely to breed unless such collection of water is so treated as to effectively prevent such breeding.

(b) The collection of water prohibited by subsection (a) of this section shall be those contained in ditches, pools, ponds, excavations, holes, depressions, open cesspools, privy vaults, fountains, cisterns, tanks, shallow wells, barrels, troughs (except horse troughs in frequent use), urns, cans, boxes, bottles, tubs, buckets, defective house roof gutters, tanks of flush closets or other similar water containers.

WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County Board of Health officials are urging County residents to take measures to protect themselves and their families from West Nile virus (WNV) after a local hospital verified a 44-year-old woman living in the county has tested positive for the virus. This is Fulton County's first human case of WNV this year.

WNV is a potentially serious mosquito-transmitted disease that can cause illness or death. Though most people who are infected with the disease do not have symptoms, others may experience mild or flu-like symptoms such as headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands, and rash. A small number of people infected may develop serious illnesses, such as meningitis (swelling of the membrane surrounding the spinal cord) or encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

“This unfortunate incident reinforces the need for all of us to remain vigilant in practicing prevention techniques to control mosquito breeding,” said S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A., Interim District Health Director, Fulton County Board of Health said. “Practicing prevention techniques that control mosquito breeding, coupled with applying personal protection techniques, has proven effective in combating West Nile virus.”

Eliminating standing water in and around your home is the most effective way to prevent mosquito breeding. According to public health officials, a significant amount of water is not necessary for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. In fact, a mosquito can lay dozens of eggs in a water-filled bottle cap. Tossing out any amount of water can make a huge difference in reducing the number of mosquitoes around your home.

The Board of Health recommends that you apply tip 'n toss techniques by turning over flower pots, covering wading pools and throwing out water stored in buckets, pet bowls and other containers after every rainfall. Taking these actions at least once a week can help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. In addition to applying tip 'n toss techniques, you can also control the mosquito population near and around your home by removing debris, repairing missing or damaged window screens and unclogging drain gutters.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes when you're outside, health officials recommend you wear clothing that protects your arms, legs and neck. You should also use an [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)—registered insect repellent](#) as well to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

For more information about the Fulton County Board of Health and our Environmental Health Program, visit fultoncountyboh.org. For more tips and information on mosquito control, please visit fultoncountyboh.org, dph.ga.gov and cdc.gov.

Reference: Fulton County Board of Health, article dated August 28, 2019.

<http://fultoncountyboh.org/boh/index.php/component/content/article/90-news/458-wnv?Itemid=188>

MOSQUITO PREVENTION AND PROTECTION TIPS

THE FIVE D'S

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites by practicing the “Five D's.”

Dusk/Dawn – Mosquitoes carrying WNV usually bite at dusk and dawn, so avoid or limit outdoor activity at these times.

Dress – Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants to reduce the amount of exposed skin.

DEET – Cover exposed skin with an insect repellent containing DEET, which is the most effective repellent against mosquito bites.

Drain - Empty any containers holding standing water because they are excellent breeding grounds for virus-carrying mosquitoes.

Doors – Make sure doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly, and fix torn or damaged screens to keep mosquitoes out of the house.

TIP 'N TOSS

Don't forget to tip 'n toss containers holding water after every rainfall. Eliminating standing water prevents mosquito breeding.

LOCAL SITES WHERE MOSQUITOES BREED

All mosquitoes need standing water to begin their life cycle. Locate all sites that hold water.

Drain, Fill, or Get Rid of Areas that Hold Water

- **Containers that hold water**
- **Swimming Pools** — maintain with proper chemicals, cover or drain if not in use
- **Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items** — pull tight so water won't pool
- **Shallow edges of ponds** — clear of plants and weeds
- **Clogged ditches and pipes** — clean out leaves, dirt, and debris so water flows freely
- **Low places, tire ruts or puddles** — fill with dirt or sand
- **Tree holes and hollow stumps** — pack with dirt or sand
- **Leaky pipes and outdoor faucets** — repair
- **Small areas of water that can't be drained** — treat with larvicides, follow label instructions

Protect Yourself from Biting Mosquitoes

- **Screens on windows, doors and porches** — install or keep in good repair
- **Car windows and garage doors** — keep closed at night
- **Overgrown shrubs, grass, weeds, vines and ground cover** — trim or remove overgrown plants that provide cool/dark/damp areas where adult mosquitoes rest
- **Scented products** — avoid using products that smell like fruit or flowers
- **Protective clothing** — wear long sleeves, long pants and socks
- **Treat clothing and gear** — use permethrin products on clothing, boots, tents or purchase pre-treated items
- **Light-colored clothing** — wear light colors — mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors
- **Insect repellent** — use EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or Picaridin

Contact your local Public Health Department Environmental Health Section with questions.

Protect and Prevent.

Sites with Standing Water That May Breed Mosquitoes

MAN-MADE CONTAINERS

- Cans
- Bottles
- Buckets
- Flower pot saucers
- Plant cuttings rooting in water
- Pet bowls or animal troughs
- Tires
- Birdbaths
- Wheel barrows
- Children's toys and wading pools
- Rain barrels
- Clogged roof gutters & downspouts
- Boats
- Junk cars

NATURAL CONTAINERS

- Rock pools
- Tree holes
- Stump holes
- Bamboo stumps
- Magnolia leaves
- Bromeliad and Pitcher plants

NATURAL AREAS

- Ground pools
- Clogged ditches or streams
- Irrigated pastures or farmland
- River and stream floodplains
- Freshwater marsh and swamps
- Salt marsh margins

- Plastic sheeting or tarps used to cover yard items

- Lake/Pond margins with plant growth

Reference: Fulton County Board of Health, Mosquito Prevention.
<http://fultoncountyboh.org/boh/index.php/environmental/mosquito-control>



October 2nd.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

October 5th.....Dumpster Day

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.

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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!
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October 6th.....Sunday in the Park 4pm-7pm

October 8th.....Civic Club @ 7pm

October 23rd.....Work Session @ 7pm
FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen participation is welcome - Please give advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.

October 28th.....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. Payments received on the 1st of the month or later will be assessed a \$25 late fee. Paypal payments are no longer an option for paying your utility bill.

****REMINDER****

Trash and recycle pick-up is now on Wednesday. Please ensure you put your cans out the night before or by 6am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Waste Pro has been out doing pick-ups in the evening as late as 7pm. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please call

City Hall at 770-993-4231 or e-mail at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com on Thursday morning to report it.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS SNAKE?

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS!



Eastern King Snakes are non-venomous, medium-sized (3-5 feet long), and commonly found in urban areas. They are top predators known to eat rodents and other snakes, including copperheads and rattlesnakes. They are typically black with yellow or white bands around the body.

Urban Kings is a citizen science project based in the metro Atlanta region (Cobb, Cherokee, Forsyth, and North Fulton counties). We are trying to learn more about King Snakes in this area, and need your help!

If you see a King Snake, please **contact us immediately** by calling Bryan Hudson or Samantha Kennett. We are trying to capture King Snakes (even those found deceased) to study their survival in urban environments.

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[Facebook.com/UrbanKingsProject](https://www.facebook.com/UrbanKingsProject)