



# CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed.

## COMMUNITY STORM SHELTER



Just a reminder...In the event of a winter storm, the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, is the community storm shelter. The Church is located at the corner of Dryden and Third Street.

## UTILITY BILL REMINDER

Utility meters are read around the 17th of each month. Please make sure your dogs are put up during this time for the safety of our staff and your dog. The utility bills are mailed on the last business day of the month. Payment is due upon receipt. If not paid by the 15th of the month, a 5% late fee will be added to your account. On the first business day after the 20th of the month, any unpaid accounts will be disconnected. If a work order to disconnect for non-payment has been prepared, you are required to pay the reconnect fee, even if your utilities have not been shut off. The reconnect fee is \$50.00 during regular business hours and \$100.00 for after hours. Checks returned to us for non-payment are due immediately in cash with a \$10.00 returned check fee. **Check your utility bill upon receipt. If you have questions about the account, contact us as soon as possible.**



## UTILITY LEVEL PAY PLAN SIGN-UP

If you are interested in signing up for the Utility Level Billing Plan, please submit your application to City Hall by April 1st. The new cycle for level billing will begin with the April bill. Late submissions may not be accepted. Applications may be printed from the City website @ [www.cityofodessa.com](http://www.cityofodessa.com) or picked up at City Hall.

## CITY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY / E-WASTE & YARD WASTE DROP OFF PROGRAM

The City of Odessa and Heartland Waste will be holding our annual City Wide Clean-Up Day on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will accept trash, junk, yard waste and electronic waste.



The City is looking for volunteers to assist those who are unable to do this for themselves, and to help clean up our parks, streets, and other visible locations. If you know of an elderly person, a disabled person or any others who might need assistance, please let us know. We cannot guarantee we will have enough volunteers, but we will help everyone we can. If you are interested in volunteering or you need assistance, please contact Sybille Wilson at City Hall. (816) 230-5577.

Dumpsters will be set up at the Rodeo grounds.  
**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## "I LOVE ODESSA" EVENT



Coming up on March 18-19, 2016, there will be hundreds of volunteers in Odessa to help improve the lives of Odessans. Volunteers will do construction projects, yard work, and hold block parties in certain parks. Do you have a project that needs to be done but are physically unable to do so? Do you have an important home repair need that needs to be done, but do not have the resources? Is the City sending you notices to get your property cleaned up? If so, this is the time to get on the list and request help to get those projects done.

If you would like to volunteer to help those who could use some assistance, or if you would like to request help for your own projects, please go to the website: [www.fbcodessa.org](http://www.fbcodessa.org). and fill out a request. Someone will contact you within 7 days. (Make up days will be April 8th & 9th)





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## SNOW REMOVAL FROM STOREFRONTS AND SIDEWALKS



*It is important that business owners and residents keep the sidewalks in front of your businesses and homes cleared of snow and ice. Owners of vacant properties need to make sure those sidewalks are cleared as well. Please make sure there is a wide clear path for pedestrians and wheelchairs to safely travel. The entire length of your property should be cleared. Every year we have complaints from residents about the sidewalks in front of local businesses. We appreciate your help.*

## STREET SNOW PLOWING NOTICE

*During a snow storm, City Crews will treat the streets with sand and salt. They will normally start around 6:00 a.m. on the morning of or the morning after the storm. The major streets of Main, Mason, Dryden, Johnson, Phillips, 1st, 3rd, N. 4th, S. 5th, and S. 9th Streets will be treated and plowed first. Other streets will be done as quickly as possible depending on the storm conditions.*



**PLEASE AVOID PARKING VEHICLES ON STREETS WHEN SNOW IS FORECAST**

## VOTING IN THE APRIL ELECTION



*A General Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2016, in the City of Odessa. Voting locations are at the Community Building in Dyer Park, and the New Horizons Presbyterian Church on Hwy. 131, between the hours of 6:00 am and 7:00 pm. Please check your voter registration card for your location. The last day to register to vote in this election is March 9, 2016. Make your voice heard....VOTE*

## WINTER ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

*Warm yourselves before warming the entire house. Slipping on an extra sweater or sweatshirt, stocking cap and some socks will increase your personal insulation, and will help to retain your body heat. If you have a corn sack or hot water bottle, it is time to use them. Winter is also a good time for hot soups and stews for dinner. Keep some extra blankets around to cover up with when watching TV. If you feel warm, you can turn your thermostat down a couple of degrees. You can save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10% to 15% for 8 hours (while you are at work or asleep). Do not forget to change and/or replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames to reduce drafts. Close your curtains and shades at night to protect against cold drafts and open the south facing windows during the day to let in warming sunlight.*



## CARING FOR YOUR PETS



**OUTDOOR PETS** ~ *As the temperatures drop, outdoor water buckets will freeze. Please check them often. Pets need a warm, dry place to get out of the elements. Put straw, hay or shavings in their dog house to keep them warm, and make sure the doghouse is draft free. Please make sure that your animals are confined to your property so that they don't end up running the streets. Animals can get disoriented when it snows and may not be able to find their way home. Your animals depend on you, and should be a lifetime commitment. (Odessa Community Development Code Section 2.802)*