



# CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed

## COMMUNITY STORM SHELTER

The Community of Christ Church, located at 515 S First Street, is the Community Storm Shelter.

## UTILITY BILL INFORMATION



**Utility meters are** read around the 15th-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 your bill is not paid in full 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 utilities for non-payment has been prepared, you are required to pay the disconnect fee, even if your utilities have not yet been shut off. The disconnect 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 full and paid with cash with a \$10.00 returned check fee. Always review your utility bill upon receipt. If you have questions about your account, contact us as soon as possible. Please do not wait until disconnect day.

**If you are interested in** signing up for the Utility Level Billing Plan, please submit your application to City Hall by March 1. 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 at [www.cityofodessamo.com](http://www.cityofodessamo.com) or picked up at City Hall.

**You may have noticed** that your utility bill account number has changed. The City is in the process of updating our operating and billing software. Account numbers have been updated as part of this process.

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

The City of Odessa and Heartland Waste will be holding our annual City Wide Clean-Up Day on Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will accept trash, junk, yard waste and electronic waste.

**TIRES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** 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 Odessa City Hall at (816) 230-5577 ext. 6. Dumpsters will be set up at the Rodeo grounds. More information will be coming in March.



## “I LOVE ODESSA” - MARCH 16-17, 2018



I Love Odessa is looking for projects to complete the weekend of March 16-17. Projects needed include construction projects, yard work, service projects, home repairs, etc. To qualify, you must present a need and the scope of the project must be able to be completed within two days. You must reside within the Odessa School District. To request a project, please call (816) 633-5535 or you can go to [www.fbcodessamo.org](http://www.fbcodessamo.org) and fill out a request form on-line. Someone will contact you in February to discuss your project. During this event, bags will be hung on Odessa residents' doors requesting food donations for local pantries and the summer back-snack program. The bag will include instructions on how to donate non-perishable food items. Please contact First Baptist Church at (816) 633-5535 for more information.

## SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Senior Center is open weekdays from 7:00 am - 2:00 pm with lunch served from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Meal deliveries are available for homebound residents. Please contact the Senior Center at 816-633-4161 for more information. Enjoy warm meals, games, and great conversation! ***Interested in volunteering? The Senior Center is always looking for delivery volunteers!***



# CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed

## STREET SNOW PLOWING NOTICE

During a snowstorm, the city crews will treat the streets with sand and salt. They will normally start around 6:00 am on the morning of or the morning after the storm. The major streets of Main, Mason, Dryden, Johnson, Phillips, First, Third, North Fourth, South Fifth, and South Ninth 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 IN THE FORCAST.**



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.

## VOTING IN THE APRIL ELECTION

A General Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, April 3, 2018, in the City of Odessa. Voting locations are at the Community Building in Dyer Park and the New Horizons Presbyterian Church on Highway 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 7, 2018. Positions up for election are Mayor, Collector, Alderman in Ward 1, Alderman in Ward 2, and Alderman in Ward 3. Please VOTE.



## SEWER BACK-UP

There has been an increase in sewer blockage from cooking grease entering the sewer system recently. There are several areas in town where this is happening. **PLEASE, NEVER PUT GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN.** Even if it is liquid when you pour it down the drain, it will harden when it hits the cold pipes underground and clog the pipes. The Department of Natural Resources has limits on the amount of grease and oil allowed in the system. Exceeding these limits puts the City in violation. Thank you for your cooperation.

## WINTER ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

Try to warm yourself before warming your 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 eight 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

As the temperatures drop, outdoor water dishes for your pets will freeze. Please check them often. Pets need a warm, dry place to get out of the elements. If your dog must be kept outside, put straw, hay, or shavings in the doghouse to keep it 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. (OCDC Section 2.802)

