



CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed.

COMMUNITY STORM SHELTER

Effective March 1, 2017, the First Christian Church of Odessa will no longer be the City's Storm Shelter. City Management and the Emergency Management Director are looking for alternative solutions.

UTILITY BILL REMINDER

Utility meters are read around the 15-17th 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 March 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.cityofodessamo.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 18, 2017 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 ext 6. (more information coming in March) Dumpsters will be set up at the Rodeo grounds.HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

"I LOVE ODESSA" EVENT ~ MARCH 17—18, 2017



I Love Odessa is looking for projects to complete the weekend of March 17-18. 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.

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 will be distributed to those in need. "I Love Odessa" will be holding a Day Camp for area children, ages K-6 those days. Please contact First Baptist Church at (816) 633-5535 for more information.





CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed.

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**

SIDEWALKS AND STOREFRONTS ~ 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 4, 2017, 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 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please check your voter registration card for your location. The last day to register to vote in this election is March 8, 2017. Positions up for election are Alderman in Ward 1, Alderman in Ward 2, and Alderman in Ward 3. Make your voice heard....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... DO NOT PUT GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN.** 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

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. (OCDC Section 2.802)