



# CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

Keeping Our Citizens Better Informed.



## APRIL 2nd GENERAL ELECTION

A General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Odessa, Missouri on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Voting polls are located at the Community Building in Dyer Park and at the New Horizons Presbyterian Church. Check your voter registration card to see where you should go to vote. Candidates for the election are:

### Alderman Ward 1

Aaron Martin  
Steve Lockhart

### Alderman Ward 2

Tom McElwee

### Alderman Ward 3

Mike Stevens

The last day to register to vote in this election is March 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. For election questions, please contact City Hall at (816) 230-5577. **EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT — VOTE ON APRIL 2nd !!**

## UTILITY LEVEL PAY SIGN-UP

If you are interested in signing up for the Utility Level Billing Plan, please contact City Hall (816-230-5577) as soon as possible. The new cycle for level billing will begin with the May 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.

## PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS

Utility bills are due on the 15th of each month, to avoid a 5% penalty. All bills must be paid in full on or before 5 pm on the 20th of each month. If not paid, utilities will be disconnected without notice on the 21st. A fee of up to \$100 and the total bill will be due to reconnect service. To pay or view your bill online, visit our website at [www.cityofodessamo.com](http://www.cityofodessamo.com).

Here is a short list of numbers you can call to seek assistance.

Community Service Center ~ (816) 230-7558 ~ Missouri Valley Community Action Agency ~ (660) 584-3131



## CITY STORM SHELTER & STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

The City Storm Shelter is the Community of Christ Church, located at 515 S. 1st Street. The State Wide Tornado Drill will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019. In the event of severe weather on the day of the drill, the make up drill will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS



Its that time again...On Sunday, March 10, 2019, we will spring forward. Daylight Savings time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP

The Community Clean-up day is Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 1 pm. If you know of an anyone who might need assistance, please let us know. We will accept trash, junk, yard waste, and electronic waste. Hazardous waste will not be accepted. If you belong to a group or organization that would like to volunteer time and help during the community clean-up day, please contact Sybille Wilson at City Hall ~ (816) 230-5577. "I LOVE ODESSA" event is planned for the weekend of March 15th and 16th. Check out the First Baptist Church's website for more information. ([www.fbcodessamo.org](http://www.fbcodessamo.org)). Request for assistance ends on March 1, 2019.

## ODESSA COMMUNITY & ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Odessa R-VII School District Adult Education Program will offer spring courses during March and April in Self Improvement, Design and Creativity, and Parenting. Classes will meet from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at McQuerry Elementary, Odessa Middle School and Odessa High School. Class offerings and enrollment is available at [www.odessar7.net](http://www.odessar7.net) or you can call 816-633-5316 for a course catalog. Course listing also appears in the Odessan. There is no cost for the course, however, some instructors will require a fee to cover materials.



# one Odessa & FIRE & EMS (Emergency Medical Service) DISTRICT

## BALLOT INFORMATION

There will be two questions on the April 2, 2019 ballot concerning the Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District of Lafayette County, Missouri:

**Question 1** – If approved, will authorize the Fire District to provide Emergency Ambulance Service with a tax levy of not more than \$0.30 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation. The Fire District currently does not provide ambulance service – Emergency Ambulance Services are provided by the City of Odessa and funded through the General Fund.

**Question 2** – If approved, will allow the Fire District to expand to a 24-hour service with a tax levy of not more than \$0.15 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation.

A yes vote on both questions means an additional levy of \$0.45 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

### What does the assessment mean to your property tax bill?

For a property appraised at \$150,000.00, the 45 cents per 100 dollars assessed would mean an additional \$128.25 to your property tax bill.

### Can the City of Odessa assess a levy outside of the City limits?

No, the City does not have the ability to assess a levy to any parcel/resident outside of the City limits or in Lake Lafayette. The only way for everyone to pay their portion is through a merger to One Odessa Fire & EMS District where the Fire District can then assess the levy to be equally supported by residents both inside and outside of the city limits.

### If approved, what would be the total levy for the One Odessa Fire & EMS District (Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District)?

If the additional .45 is approved, the total levy would be \$0.92

### If approved, how would the total levy for the One Odessa Fire & EMS District compare to other jurisdictions?

One Odessa Fire & EMS District	\$0.92
Fort Osage (Buckner)	\$1.65
Sni Valley (Oak Grove & Bates City)	\$1.01
Lake Lotawana	\$1.05
Central Jackson Co. (Blue Springs)	\$1.33
Lone Jack	\$1.16

## CURRENT STATUS

### Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District & Emergency Medical Services

- The City of Odessa's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and The Fire District **operate separately**.
- Properties in the Fire District are assessed at \$0.47 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for Fire Services, **THERE IS NO ASSESSMENT FOR EMS SERVICES**.
- EMS is a full-time 24-hour service, the Fire District is not. If both questions are passed, then **both EMS and Fire District would be 24-hour service**, decreasing the response time.
- **40% of ambulance calls are outside of the city limits.**
- Fire District residents outside of the City limits **do not pay for any EMS operational services** since they do not pay City taxes. They only pay if they use the ambulance service.
- **100% of EMS operating budget is paid through the city's general fund and only partially reimbursed by the rural residents who use Emergency Services.**
- **Second out EMS calls (calls for Emergency Services when another emergency is already underway) go to outside agencies**, increasing response time and costing the community dollars.
- EMS equipment and technology needs upgrading. Without dedicated dollars for **EMS the money comes out of the general fund** taking away important dollars for streets, police and other services.

### If Voters Decide **YES** on **ONE ODESSA** Fire & Emergency Medical Services District:

- The City of Odessa's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and The Fire District operation would be combined into **one efficient service**.
- EMS and the Fire District would be a **full-time 24-hour service** – reducing both EMS and Fire District response times providing better protection of life and property.
- Cost for EMS operating services would be **distributed to all users** in the District and not leave the burden to just the residents within the city limits of Odessa.
- **Reduced EMS and Fire response times** may reduce the insurance ISO protection rate class for the One Odessa Fire & EMS District.
- EMS and the Fire District would receive **dedicated funding by all residents** within the Fire District.
- Funds currently coming out of the City's general fund for EMS operations would be utilized for other **needed city services**.
- Equipment and technology would be upgraded to service the One Odessa Fire & EMS District **more effectively**.

### If Voters Decide **NO** on **ONE ODESSA** Fire & Emergency Medical Services District:

- The City of Odessa's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and The Fire District operation **would not be combined** and the City may need to discontinue Emergency Medical Services and utilize service from outside agencies.
- There will be **no 24-hour Fire service** – making response times unpredictable.
- Cost for operating Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would need to be revisited and **may be discontinued by the City**.
- EMS Equipment will either not be upgraded, or needed funds will be taken from the City's general fund.



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