

City of Maryville Newsletter



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City Officials

- Mayor—Chad Jackson
- City Council Member—Carole Coutts
- City Council Member—Pat Cummings
- City Council Member—Mike Thompson
- City Council Member—Dr. Jerry Wilmes
- City Manager—Matt LeCerf
- City Clerk—Sheila Small
- Finance Director—Denise Town
- Human Resources Manager—Amy Strough
- Parks & Recreation Director—Rod Auxier
- Public Safety Director—Keith Wood
- Public Works Director—Greg Decker

Severe Weather Preparation

by Keith Wood, Public Safety Director

Severe weather season is basically upon us. Parts of the country have already experienced severe weather this year.

The Maryville Public Safety Department would like to inform the public of what we are doing in preparation for this season and make some safety suggestions that could help you and your families in severe weather.

The department has in place a severe weather policy, which is reviewed by department personnel in preparation for the severe weather season. As you can imagine, these incidents produce a lot of activity, usually in a short period of time for the entire Department. The 3 primary divisions of the Department, Patrol, Communications and Fire, each have separate but related responsibilities in severe weather. Much of the Public Safety activity is “behind the scenes” and is not necessarily visible to the community, but you can be assured that the Department is vigilant in their efforts during these events.

From the time severe weather is forecast, the Department’s awareness is heightened and steps begin to track conditions. The Department has resources to monitor weather and is continuously watching for events that could effect the community.

The most reliable tools are contained in the Communications center or “dispatch”. Any information that is gathered in dispatch is constantly disseminated to the Public Safety Officers on patrol. These officers are watching for conditions that could impact the community, and as severity intensifies or necessitates, we can activate the Department’s weather spotters. While the entire Depart-

ment is trained as spotters, the volunteer firefighters are the ones that respond when spotters are requested and are the nucleus of the spotter program. The spotters will situate themselves some distance from town, usually about 5 miles, so that when they observe a hazard, there is as much lead-time to sound a warning as possible. It is the Department’s policy to sound the warning sirens when the threat of a tornado appears imminent.

There are actually times when it is possible for tornadoes to be sighted and the sirens not be activated. For example, if a tornado is spotted outside of town, but not headed for any part of the City, and/or moving away from the City, the sirens would serve no purpose and would not be sounded.

There are a few things that the Department recommends to help safeguard yourself, your family, property, business, etc.

First, know you’re terms or “the lingo”. A TORNADO WATCH means “watch” the sky, conditions are favorable to produce a tornado. This can be considered a time of preparation should the storm become more severe or progress. A TORNADO WARNING means take cover immediately. This is advisable even if the warning sirens are not sounding. It is possible for Maryville to put in a warning by National Weather Service by a “radar sighting” or some other means. We will almost always attempt to verify a tornado before sounding the sirens. It is also possible that the sirens have failed or are simply not functioning. Error on the side of safety.

Second, make it your responsibility to keep yourself informed

and safe. We will do our best to keep the community safe, but don’t assume that we will always have conditions favorable to get the community warned in an ideal manner. This weather “business” is not an exact science and is vulnerable to human error and mechanical/power failure.

Third, plan ahead. Know where you should go and what you should do in an emergency. Don’t wait for it to happen before you think about what you’re going to do. Part of that planning should include how to keep yourself informed before, during and after. That involves being familiar with your local radio station’s settings and having radios near your “cover” location. If you are concerned that a storm might strike while you’re asleep or some other time when having a radio on is not convenient, there are storm warning radios / devices available at local department and electronic stores, that will alert you in those instances.

Fourth, as with all situations, if you observe a hazard, help us – help you, report it. Call 911 or take whatever measures necessary to let us know so that we can warn the rest of the community.

The following is provided as suggestions on where to seek cover during a Tornado Warning.

In homes, go to your basement or cellar. Protect your head by crawling under something sturdy if possible. If a basement is not available, go to an interior room with no windows. This could be a bathroom or a closet. Climb in the bathtub for added protection against falling debris.

(Continued on Pg. 2)



"Much of the Public Safety activity is 'behind the scenes' and is not necessarily visible to the community, but you can be assured that the Department is vigilant in their efforts during these events".

Not on our mailing list?

Call Sheila Smail at
562-8001
or email her at
ssmail@maryville.org



Election Day
is Tuesday, April 8.
Polls will be open
from 6:00am-
7:00pm.

Severe Weather Preparation (Continued)

by Keith Wood, Public Safety Director

In a mobile home or car, abandon them. You are more safe in a ditch or low lying area than in the mobile home or vehicle. When in your car, if you see a tornado, never try to outrun it. If time permits drive away from it at a right angle. It is more advisable to get out of your car

and seek shelter in a ditch or low-lying area.

In stores, shopping malls etc., avoid large open areas. Look for supporting walls of concrete, block or brick. If not available, large sturdy shelving can be laid against to protect from falling debris. Avoid glass storefronts

and always protect your head.

We hope that the need to use this information never arises, but if it does, please be assured that your Public Safety Department will be doing everything possible to keep you informed and to aid in recovery should damage be sustained.

Golf Course Gearing Up to Open

by Rick Schultz, Golf Professional

It's been a long cold winter, but hopefully the weather will break soon and the golf course will be open again.

New equipment is arriving everyday and the Pro Shop is beginning to fill up. Clubs, shoes, bags and clothes will be available with all the latest models and styles for 2008. The square shaped driver is still getting rave reviews and it has spawned a whole new advantage. Players are finding added distance because you hit the ball straighter with the square shape. The straighter shots

lead to more confidence in the swing which in turn leads to less tension and a freer motion. That freer motion leads to increased club head speed and more distance. New this year is a green colored putter head and shaft that blends in with the color of the grass. This allows you to concentrate on the white alignment aids that run along the top of the putter head. What will they think up next?

2008 has seen the U.S.G.A., the ruling body of golf, allow clubs to be adjusted without

using the old fashion method of epoxy glue. You will now be able to snap the head off of your driver on purpose, instead of in anger, and pop it onto a new shaft. Mzingo Lake will have a fitting cart that will allow you to try out dozens of club heads (drivers, fairway woods, hybrids and irons) with dozens of different shafts. You will be able to make an appointment in April to discover what combination of club head and shaft is right for you. We look forward to helping you with this and hope to see you out here real soon.

A New Look for Water Bills

By Denise Town, Finance Director

Later this year your water bill may be undergoing a dramatic change in appearance, with the goal of providing a better quality document for the City's water customers. Initial inquiries of third party vendors have already been started, and the city council will be asked to consider proposals this spring. The plan is to discontinue printing and mailing the old postcard bills in-house and to utilize the services of a third party vendor for that process. The City would continue to read the water meters and calculate the bills, only using the third party for printing and mailing of the water bills. The calculated bills would be sent electronically to the third party vendor for printing on

letter size paper, which allows additional space for information and will be easier to read. The third party vendor would also provide a return envelope and a perforated remittance stub to include with your payment. The third party vendors offer sophisticated postal software to speed the bills through the postal system, and through their volume will be able to provide the City with the lowest postal rate for each qualified piece of mail. Another advantage will be the opportunity to include other inserts for no additional postage charge along with the water bill, such as the City newsletter, water quality report, etc. Details are still being reviewed before going to the city council

for consideration, so stay tuned for more information.

A New Face in the Finance Office

On December 14, 2007 Connie Thompson retired from her duties as a utility billing clerk with the City after 30 years of dedicated service. Many of you enjoyed visiting with her each month when paying a water bill, and she will be sorely missed by all of her colleagues. Connie's sense of humor and commitment to her work made her a true delight. Kirk Nicholson came in to fill the vacancy on January 7th so please welcome him aboard.

New Building Codes to go into Effect this Spring

by Jim Wiederholt, Code Enforcement Officer

This spring the City of Maryville plans to adopt new Building Codes. Currently, City ordinance requires that work performed in the City must follow the 2000 International Building Codes and the 1999 International Electrical Codes. In the ever changing world of construction, an eight year old code is considered antiquated, therefore the City plans to adopt the 2006 International Codes, including the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Plumbing Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code, International Fire Code, International Property Maintenance Code and the 2005 National Electrical Code.

Every 3 years the International Code Council (ICC) develops new building codes, and the latest set of codes were developed in 2006. The next set of ICC codes are set to come out in 2009, but the City typically does not adopt the new codes as soon as they come out. The adoption of the 2006 codes will represent a logical progression in safety standards. Having the most up-to-date, technically

sound codes available will also help improve the safety and betterment of our community.

February 1, 2008, marked the beginning of a 90 day review period to allow contractors to become familiar with the updated codes. All licensed contractors were notified through the mail of the review period and upcoming changes. The Code Enforcement Department has scheduled a series of classes to help contractors become more familiar with the codes. The classes will be offered in the council chambers at City Hall, 415 N. Market St. at the dates and times listed below. Please call 562-8013 to R.S.V.P. for the classes you will be attending.

Residential and Building Codes:

- Monday, March 17, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel

Gas Codes:

- Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Electrical:

- Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, March 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

All contractors and citizens are also encouraged to stop by the City Clerk's office and review the new codes during the review period. The new up-to-date codes should be in place by early spring, just in time for the new construction season. Questions can be directed to Jim Wiederholt, Code Enforcement Officer at 562-8013 or Sheila Smail, City Clerk at 562-8001.



"Having the most up-to-date, technically sound codes available will also help improve the safety and betterment of our community".

Visit our website at www.maryville.org to view Current Job Openings with the City



Mozingo Lake & Golf Course

Sports Shows are Bringing in Visitors to Mozingo Lake

by David Middleton, Lake Maintenance Superintendent

Sports shows are a great place to get the word out about the many amenities available at Mozingo Lake. This year, lake employees attended two shows to help promote the lake. The first show was the Topeka Boat Show held on February 8, 9, and 10 and the second show was the Omaha Sport and Trailer Show held on March 6, 7, 8, and 9.

The sports shows are not only a great avenue in which to promote our lake, but they are also a great place for networking with others in the industry. Lake employees can network with people in other booths

such as marina dealers; boat salesmen; tour guides who promote fishing trips in their areas; and others promoting their recreational facilities.

Most of the time at these shows is spent talking to people who are looking for new places to go fishing, camping, or to have a nice getaway. Along with information we provide about Mozingo Lake and its recreational activities, the Chamber of Commerce also provides us with additional literature and information about Maryville to distribute to booth visitors.

When we visit with the people

who come to the campgrounds or rent the cabins, we find that it is usually by 'word of mouth' that they have heard about our Mozingo Lake area. We provide survey cards at the campgrounds and at the cabins for visitors to complete and return to us. These surveys are helping us track the number of people who come to Mozingo as a result of the shows, and so far we are seeing a decent response. These shows are and will continue to be a good place to get the word out about Mozingo Lake Recreational Facility and to promote Maryville and Nodaway County.



Mozingo Lake Cabins



Mozingo Lake RV Park



Sidewalk Replacement Program

by Greg Decker, Public Works Director

With spring just around the corner, the City of Maryville wants to remind all citizens of the opportunity to take advantage of the City's sidewalk replacement program. Every year the City of Maryville budgets money to reimburse property owners for sidewalk replacements on their property. This is a great opportunity for home and business owners to replace the sidewalk located in the right-of-way on their property with a new walk-able and safe sidewalk. There are a few guidelines, but overall we believe that our program is very user friendly and we encourage everyone to take advantage of this resource.

The guidelines are as follows:

The first step is to stop in or call the Public Works office and ask for an application. The Public Works office is located in the basement of City Hall and can be reached at 562-8012. We can either mail, fax or hand deliver applications to the property owners. Once you have completed the application, you must return it to the Public

Works office. We will then inspect the sidewalk you wish to replace and verify that it does on fact need to be replaced. Once we have inspected the sidewalk, the City will notify the property owner to proceed with the removal and replacement of the sidewalk. The new sidewalk must be made of concrete and be at least four feet wide and four inches thick before the City is able to reimburse the property owner. A homeowner may do the work on their own or hire a local licensed contractor to do the work, as long as the work is done to the City specs mentioned earlier in this article.

When the new sidewalk has been completed, simply notify the Public Works office. We will then go to your site and verify that the new concrete sidewalk has been completed to City specs. Once verified, we will submit the payment request to the City Finance department who will then reimburse the property owner \$1.50 per square foot for the entire amount of replacement sidewalk. Even though this does not cover the entire cost of re-

placement, we believe that it will cover at least 50% of the project.

We encourage property owners to get on the list for reimbursement as soon as possible because funds are limited. Once we have spent the entire budgeted amount for this year, property owners must wait until the next budget cycle for reimbursement given that the replacement program will be funded in the next budget year.

Our replacement program requires you to have an existing sidewalk on your property in order to take advantage of the program. In the near future we hope to introduce a sidewalk construction program for new sidewalks. In the meantime, please consider taking advantage of the programs currently available through the City of Maryville and help make your neighborhood a safe, walk-able neighborhood. For more information on this and other programs the City has to offer contact City Hall anytime at 562-8001 or visit our website at www.maryville.org.

“This is a great opportunity for home and business owners to replace the sidewalk located in the right-of-way on there property with a new walk-able and safe sidewalk”.

Phone Numbers

City Hall	562-8001
Airport	582-2233
Animal Shelter	562-3333
Code Enforcement	562-8027
Court Clerk	562-3526
Finance/Water Bill	562-8005
Transfer Station	562-8018
Mozingo Golf Maint.	562-2638
Mozingo Golf Course	562-3864
Mozingo Lake Maint.	562-2089
Public Library	582-5281
Community Center	562-2923
Park & Rec Maint.	562-2636
Swimming Pool	562-2663
Public Safety	562-3209
Public Works	562-8012
Street Dept.	562-8012
Water Maint. Dept.	562-8019

Get Out and Vote on April 8th

by Matthew S. LeCerf, City Manager

There will be a number of city issues on the April 8, 2008 ballot which will have a significant impact on the future direction of the City over the next 10 years.

Two city council seats are up for reelection. Those seats are not based on districts but are at-large seats like all Maryville city council positions. The elected positions will be for three (3) year terms. Since only one person has filed for election, write-in votes will be accepted. In order to become a recognized write-in candidate, individuals must complete a form with the City Clerk before April 8. Only City of Maryville residents may vote for these posi-

tions and individuals must be registered voters by this time.

The other planned item on the ballot April 8 will be the question asking voters to consider a measure for a 1/2 of 1% sales tax for the purpose of capital improvements. A “NO” vote is in opposition to the measure. A “YES” vote is in favor of the measure. If approved, the City estimates a total revenue of \$7.9 million dollars during the 10 year tax. The following uses of the tax at the designated dollar amounts are listed below:

- \$4,800,000 Street Program
- \$1,000,000 Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain Repairs

- \$300,000 Emergency Siren System
- \$700,000 Trail Development Leveraged with Grants
- \$200,000 City Parking Lot Resurfacing Projects
- \$200,000 Public Works Dump/Snow Truck Replacements
- \$130,000 Public Safety Fire Brush Truck
- \$200,000 Pumper Fire Truck

The City encourages all citizens to execute their right to vote and to engage themselves in the democratic process in which we have the opportunity to take part in.