



January 2021 Newsletter

Mayor's Message



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had great and safe holidays. I am looking forward to a better year in 2021 for our little corner of the world. This year we will have plenty of challenges to address and hopefully can get back to some type of new normal. Don't forget to come out and vote in the runoff election on Tuesday January 5th.

I wish everyone a Healthy & Happy New Year!

Jim Still, Mayor



Civic Club News

Here is to Hope for the New Year! That through being frustrated, suffering, being forced to cope in new creative ways, we have examined our priorities and what we love and what brings us down. We have tried new ways to connect and share safely. Hopefully, as we come out of this Pandemic that affects us all and that no-one on earth can escape we will see ourselves and others in a new light. I am grateful to be able to live in Mountain Park during this time.

The Mountain Park Community Pantry: Is up and running 7 days a week from Sunrise to Sunset. Non-perishable foods are available in containers on the City Hall Porch facing on the Green. We are up stocked to capacity right now. We will let you know when we need more donations.

We welcome people to join us in serving and supporting Mountain Park and invite you to join us. Our Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. Come Join us and help plan the activities, services, and events for the coming year.

Civic Club Meeting
Jan 12, 2021 at 7:00pm
Community Building

Masks required and room set up for Social Distancing

If you wish to attend by Zoom, please contact Sally Wiley (404)406-8753 no later than 6:00 pm for link

ANNUAL FISHING AND BOATING PERMIT RENEWALS

The new year means that all boating and fishing permits purchased in 2020 have expired as of 12/31/2020. The applications for the new 2021 permits can be picked up by coming to City Hall or found online at our website

<https://mountainparkgov.com>. The pricing has not changed this year and is included below for residents of Mountain Park.

Fishing Resident Rates

\$25/year

\$10/week

\$5/day

Boating Resident Rates--Yearly

\$15 – canoes, kayaks, & sailboats

\$30 – boats with electric trolling motors (Lake Cherful ONLY)

Gasoline powered watercraft are not to be used by anyone.



MPVFR MESSAGE



December 31, 2020 is the end of a decade. It is also the end of our journey through Jumanji... I mean our tumultuous year of 2020.

January 01, 2021 will be the beginning of our journey through a new year and a new decade. As we embark on this new frontier and start anew, I am eager to see what the new year and new decade will bring us.

In 2021, let's let go of what we left behind in 2020, be grateful for what we still have, and look forward to what's coming on the horizon. Let's each of us find inspiration around us and motivation within ourselves to make a brand new start or to continue the path of positivity that we are already on.

Greatness is still out there for each and every one of us. All we have to do is make sure that we do not stop moving forward. If making resolutions are what you like doing for the new year, make them and stand by them. Commit to them. Treat them as if they were your greatest dreams. In fact, they can be your dreams. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said, "Dreams... is not what you see in sleep... is the thing which doesn't let you sleep." Never lose focus on your dreams. Never give up on yourselves or your dreams. Nelson Mandela said that "a winner is a dreamer that never gives up."

Stay focused, stay motivated, stay positive, and stay driven because 2021 will be a year of unlimited possibilities. Don't limit yourself by doubting yourself or how great we all became over the last year together. When you get tired, worried, or feel as if you cannot go any further, look to the sky. Look and admire the tranquility in the night sky. The boundless extension of our existence beautifully laid out in the stars. Space has no limit and neither should your dreams and confidence in your abilities to accomplish them.

Make 2021 about accomplishing dreams and goals. Buzz Aldrin said "No dream is too high for those with their eyes in the sky!"

Again, I speak for the entire fire department when I express our sincerest and endless gratitude and appreciation for the continued support that you all have given us. We appreciate and love each and every one of you!

Stay lifted and continue to lift others when you can! Remember to continue practicing social distancing as much as possible. Wear your masks while in public. Wash your hands before touching your face and eating. Cover your coughs and sneezes into the bend of your elbow. Check on the elderly in your families. And please, please, PLEASE stay positive. Stay strong. And let us all continue to move forward.

As always, we at MPVFR stand for you, beside you, and behind you. We are here if you need us and always will.

Lieutenant Michael Peck
EMS Lieutenant

Mountain Park Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Code Enforcement in Mountain Park

NEW YEARS REVIEW AND UPDATE FROM CODE COMPLIANCE

Although 2020 might be a year best left in the rear view mirror for lots of different reasons, a few key items are worth reviewing from a code compliance perspective as we enter 2021:

For 2020 we added a significant *roving patrol* component to a *complaint-driven* approach to code compliance. The results have been most apparent in three main areas:

- 1) **Fishing and boating** by unpermitted individuals has been reduced substantially. The vast majority of persons cited in 2020 were not residents of the City of Mountain Park. In addition, newly upgraded signage in English and Spanish has been added to alert the public about some of the key provisions of our code regarding fishing and boating. The bottom line? Less pressure on the lakes and more lawful compliance for the people that do take advantage of the natural beauty that is there.
- 2) **Parking.** The streets are a lot clearer – enforcement of the “no-parking on the City right of way” sections of the code has resulted in less cluttered streets, some of which are barely wide enough for two cars to comfortably pass each other. Aside from the obvious safety issues, this small change has made the city more livable.
- 3) **Nuisances.** These ranged in 2020 from piles of garbage, to unwanted furniture stacked up at roadside, to junked vehicles and trailers, and more. Enforcement has thinned down many of the more prominent eyesores, but there is still work to be done.

For 2021 we can look forward to several changes that have been implemented by your elected City Council and City Hall:

- 1) **Fishing and Boating.** A web based electronic permitting system for fishing and boating on Lakes Cherful and Garrett.
- 2) **Parking** on city parking lots at night and on vacant lots. The code is being updated and clarified.
- 3) **Nuisances.** The nuisance code is being considered for an update to include some types of vegetation, particularly climbing vines, although the maximum height for these will be a more relaxed three feet instead of the current standard of one foot for other vegetation. This aligns the city a little closer to other jurisdictions across Georgia.

The pandemic has made things tougher for everyone, and anxieties are understandably heightened. I ask that folks recognize that Code Compliance is a duty that the elected city officials have determined is important for the health, safety and wellbeing of the City, and that as a sworn officer of the City with this responsibility I execute my duties in a fair and evenhanded manner to the best of my abilities and in the common good. Here's to 2021!

Philip W. Engle
Code Compliance Officer



Know Your City Code

HOME BUSINESSES



Sec. 14-31. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Home occupation means any use, occupation or activity conducted entirely within a dwelling by the residents thereof which is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling for residence purposes and does not change the character thereof, and in connection with which there is no display; no stock-in-trade nor commodity sold or stored on the premises, and no person not a resident on the premises is employed specifically in connection with the home occupation; provided, however, that no mechanical equipment is installed or used except such as is normally used for domestic purposes, and that not more than ten percent of the total floor space of any dwelling is used for home occupation. "Home occupation" shall include the use of premises by a physician, dentist, lawyer, clergyman or other professional person for consultation or emergency treatment, but not for the general practice of the profession.

Sec. 14-33. - Permitted in residential districts.

Home occupations, as defined in section 14-31 may be established in a dwelling in a residential district. The following requirements and restrictions shall apply in addition to all other applicable requirements, provisions and restrictions of the Code of the City of Mountain Park, Georgia:

- (1) Home occupations are subject to the occupational taxes set forth in Chapter 54, in section 54-101 through section 54-136 of this Code of Ordinances.
- (2) No accessory buildings or outside storage shall be used in connection with the home occupation.
- (3) No internal or external alterations inconsistent with the residential use of the building shall be permitted.
- (4) Only one vehicle designed and manufactured to be used primarily as a passenger vehicle shall be permitted in connection with the conduct of the home occupations.
- (5) No equipment that interferes with radio and/or television reception shall be allowed.
- (6) There shall be no exterior evidence of the home occupation.
- (7) No use shall create noise, dust, vibration, odor, smoke, glare or electrical interference that would be detectable beyond the interior of the dwelling unit.
- (8) All activities associated with the home occupation shall be conducted entirely within the dwelling unit and only persons residing in the dwelling unit shall be employed to perform those specific home occupation related activities which occur at the location of the home occupation.
- (9) No more than ten percent of the interior square footage of the dwelling unit shall be used for the conduct of the home occupation.
- (10) No use shall involve any type of public contact in connection with the home occupation other than occasional and incidental public contact, which shall be limited to no more than two non-resident visitors at any one time at the location of the home occupation and furthermore, no article, product, or service shall be sold, traded or exchanged on the premises other than by telephone.
- (11) No business vehicles, materials or equipment shall be stored or parked on the exterior of the dwelling except that one vehicle as described in subsection (4) of this ordinance and used exclusively by the resident may be parked at the location of the home occupation.
- (12) No off-site employees of the home occupation shall congregate on or adjacent to the premises for any purpose concerning the home occupation.
- (13) No home occupation shall be operated so as to cause a nuisance or create a fire hazard or any other hazard to public safety.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1st..... City Hall Closed

January 5th.....General Election Runoff 7am-7pm

The voting location for all Mountain Park residents is the Community Building. All Georgia voters are required to provide valid photo identification in order to vote.

January 6th.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

January 6th.....City Court @ 7pm

Due to COVID concerns, City Court is being rescheduled this month and will be February 3rd.

January 9th.....Dumpster Day 7am-10am

1. Must provide proof of residence in the City of Mountain Park.
2. ONE TRUCKLOAD OR TRAILER LOAD PER RESIDENCE.
3. All yard debris must be cut into 3 feet sections or less.

Please note that this is a service provided by Waste Pro as a courtesy and the City of Mountain Park does not have any control over what time they arrive/depart or the rate which the dumpster fills and the amount it can hold. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

January 18th..... City Hall Closed

January 20th.....Work Session @ 7pm

FOR CITY COUNCIL: Citizen Participation is welcome – Please give at least 24 hours advance notice if you wish to be added to the agenda by contacting City Hall.

January 25th..... Regular Council @ 7pm

****REMINDER****

Water bills are due by the last day of every month. Please use the drop box at City Hall or pay online at https://mtnpark.secure.munibilling.com/customers/sign_in. Payments received on the 1st of the month or later will be assessed a \$25 late fee.

****REMINDER****

Please ensure you put your cans out the night before after 6pm or by 7am on Wednesday and leave them at the curb until they are picked up. Please remove your cans from the curb by 8am on Thursday. No yard debris is allowed. If your trash or recycle pick-up is missed please email City Hall at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com or call City Hall at 770-993-4231 on Thursday morning by 12pm.

COVID-19



QUARANTINE

for people with
no symptoms

Full
14-days
SAFEST

Quarantine at Home

After
10-days,
no test

Quarantine at Home

Released from
quarantine, monitor for
symptoms, wear a mask,
social distance

After
7-days,
with test

Quarantine at Home

Released from quarantine after negative
test result, monitor for symptoms, wear a
mask, social distance

Day 0
Date of
most recent
exposure

Day 5
Earliest day
to get a test

Day 7

Day 10

Day 14

dph.georgia.gov



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH