



March 2021 Newsletter

Mayor's Message



Once again we are riding the “teeter-totter” of winter and spring. As I write this we are expecting a 70 degree high for the day and we just had a 27 degree low a couple of days ago. I am looking forward to the warmer average highs that will soon be with us. Deb and I enjoyed participating in the Civic Clubs “virtual beer tasting” last month and hope they continue to come up with creative ways to bring our community together. We are all missing the events that would bring us out on The Green especially this time of the year. I know this COVID pandemic has changed a lot of how we do and see things but I am hopeful we are closing in on better times in the near future.

Unfortunately a number of people pull into Mountain Park and don't think twice about throwing their garbage and beer cans out the window and onto our roadsides. I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill Robertson for his tireless efforts to keep West Lake & East Lake Drive clean while on his walks. Bill has picked up so much trash along West Lake that he filled up a recycling tub. Thanks Bill! If everyone takes a bag with them on their walks around Mountain Park we can keep our community even more appealing than it regularly is and for everyone else please don't throw your trash in our yards!

We are about to start the first T-SPLOST project on the “bird land” side of the lakes and will take a few weeks for completion. Once these projects get finished, it will improve our storm water run issues in most cases. We ask for your patience and cooperation during these inconvenient times of construction.

This year is an election year and we will have 3 council seats open for new terms starting in 2022. Please consider attending some of the council work sessions or council meetings to see what type of commitment these positions require. Council only meets twice a month and typically for no more than an hour. It is important that citizens step up to serve in their community and be a part of the decision making and direction the City of Mountain Park takes going forward. Whether you choose to participate or choose not to participate we will get the government we deserve.

Have a safe healthy March and enjoy the start of another beautiful spring in The Park.

Jim Still

Civic Club News

Sunny Days are bringing out daffodils, singing spring peeper frogs and smiling walkers. The bald eagle couple seems to be hanging around, possibly building a nest somewhere in Mountain Park.

Civic Club is looking forward to the days when we can, once again, start having the wonderful “live events” that everyone enjoys. Along this line, it would be helpful to us in planning if when you get your first and second vaccine shot, you could email us at civicclubbmp@gmail.com. This way we will be able to see how we are progressing in moving to “live events.” In the meantime we are trying to be creative in finding new ways to stay safe (wearing our masks) and “social distancing”. The return of warmer weather helps, of course.

In February we had our “**Craft Beer Tasting Party on Zoom**” with to your door deliveries that the attendees found fun and a chance to do something together and be together (in a way). **Thank you to Trish Hill, Jennifer Fuller, Frank Baia and Holli Hutson.** There is talk of having a similar Wine Tasting Event in the future. Let us know if you might be interested.

Our **Mountain Park Community Food Pantry** continues to serve. Hours were increased to 24/7. We will be discussing the Pantry at our meeting.

Also on the meeting agenda:

MPCC Newsletter

Plans for a (social distanced) Dog parade on the Saturday before Easter (April 3)

Plans for a Big Earth Day Celebration (April 24)

5 Zone Captains for litter pick-up teams

Civic Club Meeting

March 9th, 2021 at 7:00pm

Community Building

Masks are required and room is set up for social distancing.

If you wish to attend by Zoom, please contact Sally Wiley by text at (404)406-8753 with your name and email address no later than 6:00 pm. The link will be sent out right before the meeting opens at 7:00pm.





MPVFR MESSAGE



Hello beautiful Mountain Park. Three months into 2021 and it's already been pretty tough. Tough as 2021 may be, Mountain Park... you are tougher.

Since the city's incorporation in 1927, it has been a source and home of healing and peace for all who have found their way to the area. For those that know the city's history, it is also a source and home for growth, development, and expansion. From the availability of electricity in the 1930's to the building of Lake Cherful in 1951, the Wildlife Refuge known as Mountain Park has always been a beacon of development and growth. Along with continued development and growth, there is a strong atmosphere of tradition. Do families still name their houses like in the days of the "Buzzard's Roost", the "Owl's Nest", and the "Park-Ur-Carcass"? Another tradition is one that was started and incorporated during Ms. Joyce Ayers' term as mayor. Our beloved Volunteer Fire Department. Just as Ms. Ayers led the way as the first woman in Georgia to head a municipality, Mountain Park's Volunteer Fire Department leads the way as in progression as an ISO Class 2 rated fire department as well as being the last unpaid volunteer fire department in the greater metro area. The survival and progression of the department is due to the members' love of the residents and the community. Even after the near destruction of the station and civic building in 2009 due to weather and flooding, the department powered through and continued serving the city nobly and without question. The department and the city powered through some of the most difficult times. William Ellery Channing said, "Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict." The strong human spirit and resolve of the residents gives life and light to the city. Keep that light shining Mountain Park. Keep it shining.

Mountain Park, we must continue to build upon the strong human spirit and continue building upon the tradition of love and growth. We made it through 2020 with our heads held high, love in our hearts, and a strong resolve to prosper and move forward and upward no matter what obstacles are placed in our way. Andy Rooney said, "Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it." Let's continue climbing upward and moving forward.

I am proud to serve the city and happy to be an adopted member of the Mountain Park family as a member of the fire department. The families here are nothing short of amazing and I have received nothing but love and respect from any and all of the residents that I have had the pleasure of encountering. We at MPVFR love each and every one of you.

Continue practicing social distancing as much as possible. Wear your masks while in public. Wash your hands. 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 remember to do something today that your future self will thank you for.

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

TREE REMOVAL: SOME CODE COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

Trees are an important part of The City of Mountain Park. Not only are numerous code sections dedicated to Tree Protection and Preservation, but the city has been designated a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation. It’s safe to say the city cares about its trees.

Section 105-202 of the Mountain Park Code lays it out:

“The city deems it necessary and desirable in the interest of public health, safety and welfare to enact an ordinance for the conservation, planting and replacement of trees and to prevent the indiscriminate removal of trees in the city without denying the reasonable use and enjoyment of real property. The importance of trees is recognized for their shade, cooling, noise and wind reduction, soil erosion prevention, oxygen production, dust filtration, carbon dioxide absorption, aesthetic and economic enhancement of all real property, and their contribution to the general wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens of the city. Consistent with the expressed purpose of this article, all persons shall make reasonable efforts to preserve and retain existing, self-supporting trees. It is also the intent of this article that all applicable lots within the city maintain or obtain a minimum tree density.”

This time of year is a busy one for tree cutting. This year there has been even more activity than normal because of the heavy weather we have been experiencing.

A permit is usually required to cut any tree which has its roots in the ground with more than a 4” diameter.

A permit is NOT required to cut up a tree which has been uprooted and has fallen down. Nor is permit required to saw up branches that have snapped off a tree as the result of an act of nature: a storm, for example.

I hear from citizens that say, the tree was “diseased” so they “had to” cut it down. Not so. The tree ordinance does not provide an exception to the permit requirement for diseased trees.

Tree permits are easy to apply for in advance of when the tree is to be removed. Technically the permit is called an “approval letter” in the Mountain Park code. The forms can be submitted, and in many cases are applied for by the tree cutting company. It’s always helpful to provide pictures in support of your application. The city arborist will then assess whether a permit should be issued.

With a permit in hand, the tree can then be lawfully removed.

Philip W. Engle
Code Compliance Officer





Know Your City Code



Report Illicit Discharges

If you notice discharge to streams, please contact the City of Mountain Park at 404-993-4231. Illicit discharge is any discharge to a storm sewer that is not entirely composed of storm water.

Sec. 105-307. - Prohibition of illicit discharges.

No person shall throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the city separate storm sewer system any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater.

The following discharges are exempt from the prohibition provision above:

- (1) Water line flushing performed by a government agency, other potable water sources, landscape irrigation, diverted stream flows, rising ground water, ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, springs, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, and any other water source not containing pollutants;
- (2) Discharges or flows from firefighting, and other discharges specified in writing by the city as being necessary to protect public health and safety;
- (3) The prohibition provision above shall not apply to any non-stormwater discharge permitted under an NPDES permit or order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the state and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the (municipal/county) separate storm sewer system.

Sec. 105-149. - Prohibited pollutants.

- (a) It is unlawful to discharge, or allow to be discharged, pollutants and contaminated water into any:
 - (1) Public street, highway, right-of-way;
 - (2) Stormwater conveyance or facility; and
 - (3) Other public/private property that is a part of or drains to the municipal storm sewer system.
- (b) Pollutants that are prohibited include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Petroleum products including but not limited to oil, gasoline, grease, fuel oil and heating oil;
 - (2) Trash or debris;
 - (3) Pet wastes;
 - (4) Chemicals;
 - (5) Paints;
 - (6) Steam cleaning wastes;
 - (7) Washing of fresh concrete for cleaning and/or finishing purposes or to expose aggregates;
 - (8) Laundry wastes;
 - (9) Soaps;
 - (10) Pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers;
 - (11) Sanitary sewage;
 - (12) Heated water;
 - (13) Chlorinated water or chlorine, except as exempted in section 105-148;
 - (14) Degreasers and/or solvents;
 - (15) Bark and other fibrous material;
 - (16) Antifreeze or other automotive products;
 - (17) Lawn clippings, leaves, or branches;
 - (18) Animal carcasses;
 - (19) Silt;
 - (20) Acids or alkalis;
 - (21) Recreational vehicle wastes;
 - (22) Dyes (without prior permission of the department); and
 - (23) Construction materials.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 3rd.....Siren Testing @ 12pm

March 3rd.....City Court @ 7pm

March 6th.....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!

March 17th.....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.

March 22nd..... Regular Council @ 7pm

UPDATE ON COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City of Mountain Park will now have audio recordings of work session and regular council meetings available on our website at www.mountainparkgov.com. We are working to have them posted 48 hours after the meeting occurs, but there may be times it could take longer. If you are unable to attend any meetings please visit our website to stay up to date on what is going on in the City. You can find the recordings on the home page under the posting of the agenda. You can also go the City publications tab, then to council minutes and you will see an audio folder there.

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 call City Hall at 770-993-4231 or email City Hall at utilitybilling@mountainparkgov.com on Thursday morning by 12pm.



FULTON COUNTY

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

For Residents Outside City of Atlanta



Fulton County
COVID-19 Emergency Rental
Assistance Program

1. TENANT & LANDLORD SUBMIT APPLICATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

2. DETERMINATION OF PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.

3. FOLLOW UP FOR ANY MISSING INFORMATION.

4. FINAL DETERMINATION MADE.

5. PAYMENTS MADE TO LANDLORD & UTILITIES.



FULTON
COUNTY

www.fultoncountyga.gov/renthelp



Fulton County
COVID-19 Emergency Rental
Assistance Program

TENANT CHECKLIST

If you are a tenant who wants to apply for the Fulton County COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program, you can prepare by gathering the information and documents you will need to attach as part of your application. The sooner you submit all documents, the sooner your application can be processed.

- ✓ ID: Valid Photo ID for applicant
- ✓ CONTACT INFO: Your email and phone number
- ✓ PROOF OF YOUR INCOME –tax returns or wage statement
- ✓ LEASE: Lease Agreement or Documentation of Payments made
- ✓ EVICTION NOTICE: Copies of eviction notice or dispossessory notice (if applicable)
- ✓ UTILITIES: Past Due Water, Gas or Electrical Utility notice(s).
You will also need to enter the account numbers.
- ✓ UNEMPLOYMENT: Documentation of unemployment or loss of income since March 2020
- ✓ PREVIOUS ASSISTANCE: Notices of any prior rental assistance you have received since March 2020
- ✓ Any other documentation that indicates your risk of homelessness