

Happy Fall ~ things happening at City Hall ~

NEW WEBSITE!

The city recently contracted with a new website hosting company and the current website will undergo a transformation. Not only will there be up-to-date information posted there, but we will also have Alerts, a calendar, and future newsletters like this available. Signing up for Alerts will also send you a text message of notices we add to the website in real time. The website will be continually updated over the next few months. If you see information is not there yet, we will be working on getting it there. If you want a community event added to the calendar, let us know!

PICKLEBALL ANYONE?

You may have noticed that we no longer have tennis courts in town. The city recently had the old courts converted to Pickleball courts. They are shiny and new, so take a look or come to play. They are on a first come, first served basis. To keep the surface optimal for pickling, it is necessary to keep bikes, skateboards, roller blades and skates out of the court area.

NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

Now that the daylight is getting shorter and days cooler, fall is a great time to clean up yards before we all hibernate for the winter. Take a look around your property to see if personal items stored on your yard, driveway or on the street adhere to the new Zoning ordinance. This ordinance was approved the end of June. Below are some excerpts from the ordinance that are not currently allowed. The full ordinance can be found in the entry at City Hall, the Post Office and our new website.

- Obstructions and excavations affecting the ordinary public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public grounds.
- Accumulations in the open of discarded or disused machinery, household appliances, automobile bodies or other materials in a manner conducive to the harboring of rats, mice, snakes, or vermin, of the rank growth of vegetation among the items so accumulated, or in a manner creating fire, health, or other safety hazards from such accumulation.

- The outside parking and storage on residentially zoned property of large numbers of vehicles and vehicles, materials, supplies, equipment, or farm machinery not customarily used for residential purposes.
- A person must not place, store, or allow the placement or storage of ice fishing houses, skateboard ramps, playhouses, or similar non-permanent structures outside continuously for longer than twenty-four (24) hours in the front yard area of residential property.
- The use of semitrailers, shipping containers, and other similar structures or containers for storage on a lot for more than 180 days in any one year period is prohibited.
- Vehicles that are parked or stored outside in the front yard areas must be on a paved or graveled parking surface or driveway area.
- It shall be unlawful to keep, park, store, or abandon any motor vehicle that is not in operating condition, partially dismantled, used for repair of parts or as a source of repair or replacement parts for other vehicles, kept for scrapping, dismantling, or salvage of any kind, or which is not properly licensed for operation within the state.

If you are in violation of this ordinance, we ask that you please address it. Now that the ordinance is approved, violation letters will be sent to properties. You will receive a dated letter first with 2 weeks to remedy what was identified. If it is not addressed within the 2-week time indicated, it will be passed on to the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office for the next step.

FLUSHABLE WIPES... OR NOT

Wipes are not designed to break down in sewer systems or treatment plants and can gum up the system. Several studies over the past several years have provided evidence to suggest that wipes branded as “flushable” are clogging wastewater systems. It is estimated that disposable wipes make up 90% of these massive clogs.

Unlike toilet paper, which breaks down quickly in water, wet wipes remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and blocks sewers. Even those labeled “flushable” should not be flushed.

If you must use wipes, put them in the trash, not the toilet. These same wipes may also be the culprit if you’re having plumbing problems.

Empowering you with information that matters