



Fall 2018

City of McLouth

MAYOR'S CORNER

Good day one and all, I trust everyone has had a good year so far. As you all are very aware we've had a member of our city staff leave us. It is with great sadness that I have to say Chief Marcus Koch has left the police department. Marcus has moved on to the city of Valley Falls to fill the vacancy of City Police Chief that their town has. Marcus's departure has not left us without police coverage we still have Officer Williams, Cpl Judes and Officer Cannizzaro. These fine men will continue their service to this community in the same style that they have always done so.

On the 27th of this month we will be having a city-wide cleanup day you can bring old paint and any other household hazards to city hall and we will dispose of them, unfortunately we cannot take tires at this time. If you have the need for assistance with old appliances just call and set up a time with Mrs. Everely for us to pick up these items. If you place brush out by the curb we will also pick that up and haul it off for you.

I would like to take this time also to Thank the Corporation of Dollar General for building a new store in our community. The store is a great benefit to the community and has hired at least four of our local citizens to work under their roof. I've enjoyed the friendliness of the staff every time I've gone in the store and the convenience of having a small retail store in our town is wonderful. So thank you once again Dollar General.

It will soon be that time of year again when the snow starts flying just as it had on Sunday the 14th. But as we all know this first snow just settled on the trees and the grass, but as the days get colder with the coming of winter, the snow will stick to the streets and the sidewalks so please be careful in your travels. When we have those days of heavy snow please be mindful of the fact that our Maintenance crew will be out trying to clear the streets, so please park your vehicles wisely if you park along the streets.

Have a wonderful Holiday season and please be safe.—Mayor Meador

WATER REPAIRS ON THE WAY

The big news for the City of McLouth is that we have been approved for the USDA Water Improvement Loan. This loan comes at a lower interest rate than current market rates. Continued on page 2.



Photo compliments of:
Tammi Bolinger Foster

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WATER REPAIRS ON THE WAY CONT...

Keeping you up to date:

- Jim Moore has resigned his position as councilman. He will be missed. Don Nowak has been appointed in his place.
- Codification is underway for the McLouth Code.
- There is a lot of remodeling and building going on in our town. Thank you to those who have come forward and filled out the required paperwork for your project. This is so much better than receiving a letter after the fact stating that it must be built by code!
- City Hall Holidays: Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Improvements that you will see: Old leaking water mains will be dug up and replaced. The streets that are getting dug up, will be replaced. Auto Meter Readers will also be installed. We currently have 39 auto meters in and are getting good results.

The new meters will replace the older slower meters. You may see a slight increase in your water bill because the new meter will actually calculate every drop that goes through it. The old meters slow down with age.

In case you were wondering how the meters get read. Each meter has an antenna attached to it. Reading can be pulled from city hall. These readings are imported with the help of the Verizon cell tower. This system is a much less expensive system than the original quote for auto read meters.

The water plant will be updated as well. The Utility Workers have spent many days at the water plant fixing and repairing old parts. The plant is 20 years old and will have some updates that will help the day to day operations run more smoothly.

When it is all said and done we should have less water loss...saving everyone money. Better drinking water and more time to spend on other things than repairs.

All of this comes at the same price that you are currently paying for water right now. There will be no rate increase. The current loan will end in the 1st quarter of 2019. The new loan will not start until the project is complete.

The Water Department



GAS SAFETY NOTE:

Warning! If you replace a gas operated cook stove or any gas operated appliance that is connected to the gas piping system with a "flex connection", replace the flex connector with a new one. These are a one time use connector, and should never be reused. Also, if your existing flex connector is over 8-10 years old you should inspect it or have it replaced as some of the earlier connectors have been reported to have cracked and started leaking. If you have any questions or would like for one of us to inspect your flex connectors, please call City Hall and set up an appointment. 913-796-6411

THE CITY OF MCLOUTH GAS SAFETY!!

As the Gas Provider for the City of McLouth residence and businesses we believe that knowledge is the key!

Here is how the system works-SouthernStar transports the gas to the border station. That gas becomes ours once it reaches this station. The gas is transported underground, throughout the city. Gas markers are located at various points to indicate that there is a gas line below. The markers will tell you who owns the line and who to call if there is an issue. ALWAYS CALL DIG SAFE! It is always better to be safe than sorry!

Know what to do:

Sight: Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooding areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound: Volume can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar depending on the size of the leak and pipeline system.

Smell: An unusual smell or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany pipeline leaks. Natural Gas is colorless, tasteless and odorless unless commercial odorants or Mercaptan is added. Gas transmission and gathering pipelines are odorless but may contain a hydrocarbon smell.

Be Aware: of the location of buried pipelines in and around your location and assist us in preventing "dig in damage" or meter sets being damaged by vehicles.

Educate: Know how to tell if you need to evacuate an area even before calling. If you hear a hissing sound or smell gas leave the building, do not turn anything on or off, do not use your phone.

Make the Call: CALL 911—The 911 dispatch center will know who to call in the event of an emergency. They have a list of emergency contacts for all the appropriate departments.

Safety: Install "carbon monoxide" (CO) detectors, know the symptoms of CO poisoning, and the appropriate treatment of CO poisoning if suspected. Some of the early symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, and nausea. Some more advanced signs and symptoms are disorientation, passing out, reddish skin color, severe headache, and more advanced, coma and death. Once CO is suspected, all persons should be evacuated to fresh air, and if trained to do so, administer oxygen and contact emergency medical services or seek medical help.

Still concerned: As a customer with the McLouth Gas Department you have the opportunity to request an EFV (Excess Flow Valve) for your gas system. EFV's are mechanical shut-off devices that can be installed on the gas service line, which is the gas pipe running from the gas main to the gas meter on your property. An EFV is designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks, for example, by an excavation accident or vehicle striking the meter set. Stopping the flow of gas from a broken service line significantly reduces the risk of natural gas fire, explosion, personal injury and/or property damage. EFVs are not however, designed to close if a leak occurs beyond the gas meter (on house piping or appliances), or if the leak on the service line is too small to trip (close) the EFV. These EFVs are installed at the customers expense. This expense could range from \$200 to \$2,000 depending on the type of surface to be removed and replaced. The weather is always a consideration when making this type of change.

Be Proactive: Flex connectors 10 years or older change it out.

In an effort to continue to keep the community safe we are offering free gas inspections. Getting a new gas appliance? Installing a new furnace? Anytime gas is involved feel free to call City Hall, 913-796-6411, and make an appointment to have your gas connections tested. You can request a test for older appliances and connections as well. There are older fittings that could start to fail. (see the "Gas Safety Note").

SUGGESTIONS ON SAFE DIGING

✓ Use only rounded/blunt edged tools.



✗ Don't use axes, hand or powered posthole diggers, picks, mattocks, pry/probing bars or mechanized equipment, as these often result in damage.

✓ Keep the face of the shovel parallel with the utility line markings.



✓ If the utility line is visible, keep the face of the shovel parallel with the utility line and use all precautions when removing the soil from around the utility line.

✗ Don't be aggressive with digging close to utility lines.

✗ Don't pry against a utility line.

✗ Don't take for granted that a utility line will be at a certain depth.

✗ Don't assume an unmarked line is abandoned.

✗ Don't assume that a utility line that is uncovered will be the only one. There may be another line underneath or close by.



✗ Don't become frustrated if you do not encounter a utility line right away. Frustration can lead to carelessness and eventual damage to the utility line.



✗ Don't expose excessive lengths of a utility line.

✗ Don't leave utility lines exposed while unattended.

✗ Don't attempt to move underground utility lines.

THE CITY OF MCLOUTH EMPLOYEES

The City of McLouth employees strive to do a good job, yet we are human. We take pride in our work and do our very best. We have good days, we have bad days, just like everyone else. Isn't it amazing that when you walk into City Hall you are greeted with a friendly face and a "How can I help you?" or "How are you today?"

It would be disrespectful to yell at those customers that break the payment agreements or fib on building permits. We make every effort to try to contact anyone that has not paid their bill, prior to shut off.

So the next time you turn on your tap and your water flows freely, stop and take a minute to consider your city workers for their dedication and care to you and your family.

Water is very important to us all. It takes a lot of time and education to keep the water healthy. Doing all this while keeping the sewers moving and gas flowing. We can eat, drink, flush and keep warm!

So next time you run into your city worker at the store, on the street, or working, stop and say "Thank You!" for keeping us healthy, safe and caring about our community!

Thank you to those that have been so supportive. It is much appreciative. Your kindness is heartfelt!

City of the 3rd Class?

Did you know that McLouth is a City of the 3rd Class? Why you say? The class is determined by the population.

Each city has a list of duties that they are responsible for. These duties don't go away just because you are a smaller city. They are state mandated and city personnel must abide by the rules.

GAS EMERGENCY:

911

ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST!

Dispatch has all the necessary information needed to get the situation under control fast!

City of McLouth Gas Contacts:

913-796-6411 City Hall

913-775-3430 Wil Rodriguez

785-813-5164 John DeLaet

785-691-8321 Kim Everley

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Well September was an unusually warm month and we wondered if Fall would ever bring cooler temps. Well Mother Nature decided that on the 14th it was time to give us a taste of winter. With that it's time to have your furnaces and fireplaces inspected to ensure they are functioning properly and have no leaks along with your chimney flues. Ensuring everything is working properly, will lessen the chances of having a flue fire or getting carbon monoxide in your home.

Fire Department personnel along with the County Emergency Manager Keith Jeffers visited the grade school grades Pre-K through 4th grade for Fire Prevention Week on October 9th. This year's theme is "Look, Listen, Learn – Be Aware, Fire Can Be Anywhere." Even though the weather kept us inside, a good time was had by all.

Also it won't be long before we change the calendar to 2019. With that it'll be time to renew your annual burn permits. You will be able to stop by the fire station on Thursday mornings from 10 am to noon during January to renew your permit or stop in at City Hall. There are new guidelines for calling in on the day you want to burn. The day you burn you'll call **785-403-0108**. If burning is allowed your call will be forwarded to dispatch where you'll give them your name and call back phone number, the location of the burn, time you'll be burning, type of burn, and your annual burn permit number. If burning is not allowed a recording will inform you that burning is banned and it will not forward to dispatch.

Upcoming Events:

Oct 31 – Community Halloween Party at the Fire Station from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.

Nov 3 – Fall Pancake Feed at the Fire Station from 6:30 am to noon.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Procedures for placing/posting political signs-

- The signs cannot exceed 32 square feet in size. If it does you need a permit.
- No more than 4 signs per each street frontage zoned lot. Total area not to exceed 64 square foot per zoning lot.
- All signs must be removed within 7 days of the election.
- No sign can be on a public right of way.
- No sign can be put on private property without permission from the property owner.
- All signs must be on private property.

Please Note:

This is a bullet point list for political sign purposes only
For the complete code go to: www.CityofMcLouth.org
Click on the "Code" tab / scroll to Zoning / Chapter 16



Veterans Day

McLouth Elementary School wishes to invite the community, veterans, and all active military men and women for a short recognition ceremony to proudly honor those who have served and who are now serving at this time.

Please join us on Friday, November 9th, 2018 in the McLouth Purple Gym beginning at 9:15 am. Please RSVP by calling the elementary office at 913-796-6152 if you plan to attend so we can accommodate all seating. Thank you!

Join the McLouth USD 342 students in a Veterans Day assembly on November 9, 2018 at 9:15 AM. RSVP the School: 913-796-6152



Pancake Breakfast

November 3, 2018

6:30 am to noon

At Fire Station

Sponsored by

McLouth/District #9

Fire Department

GREAT CENTRAL SHAKEOUT

On October 18 the City of McLouth Office Staff and Police Chief attended the earthquake training presentation put on by the Jefferson County Emergency Management. It was a great presentation. McLouth was the only city represented. I chose to attend this training because educating ourselves is the key to surviving.

The city provides water, sewer and gas to our residence. We need to have a plan in place just in case this type of emergency does happen in our area.

Jefferson County Emergency Management will be holding more trainings in the future. Please make an effort to attend...it could save your life or someone you love!

Here is a safety tip for all to know:



Drop under a table

Protect your body core

Hold the protection over your body

These are guidelines for most situations. For more information go to:
www.earthquakecountry.org/step5

We now have a **Clothes Drop** at City Hall



**JOIN US
 FOR THE COMMUNITY
 HALLOWEEN PARTY
 AT THE
 FIRE DEPARTMENT**
**ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT
 OCTOBER 31, 2018**
**FROM
 6:00 TO 8:30 PM**
**COSTUME CONTEST
 AT
 7:00 PM**
**FOR
 FUN, FOOD, AND DOOR PRIZES**
 DJ BOB will be providing the music
 SPONSORED BY
 THE MCLOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT
 AND
 LOCAL BUSINESSES




The Jefferson County Area Chamber of Commerce will be playing the "Passport" game.
Shop Local and WIN!
 Call Kim for details: 913-796-6411






Recycle containers are available at City Hall.

Please review the acceptable list prior to putting anything in the containers.

Please **do not** put the recyclables in **trash bags**—the trash bags are not recyclable and everything in them will be thrown away.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

December 1, 2018

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

City Park-Downtown McLouth

Free Food

Door Prizes

Music

A special appearance by the Big Man Himself: SANTA !

Make it festive! Put up a tree in the park. Decorate it as you like. We will provide the electricity. Start putting up the trees on November 23, 2018.

Please remove your tree prior to the 14th of January, 2019.

Donations accepted at City Hall.

More Info? Call Mary: 913-796-6921 or Kim at 913-796-6411.

AROUND TOWN

Thank you to the United Methodist Church for the wonderful night in the Park. Bob Lockwood put it all together and he did a great job!

The Nazarene Church hosted a Chili Cook-off in the park. Another great event! Thank you for keeping our community involved and active!

We look forward to more great events to happen in 2019!



INLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Labor Day:	Wednesday Trash Pickup
Thanksgiving:	Regular Tuesday Trash Pickup
Christmas:	Wednesday Trash Pickup
New Years Day 2019:	Wednesday Trash Pickup

City of McLouth

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