

City Highlights

Volume 9, Issue 8

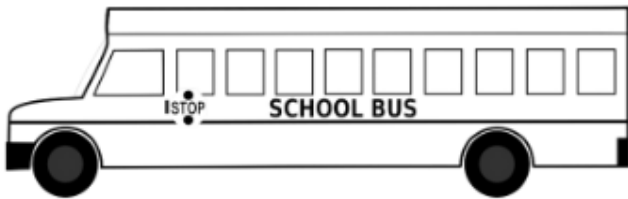
August 2023

SCHOOL STARTS SOON

The Tri-City United school year is about to begin. The first days for students will be the week of September 5, 2023.

Many kids walk and bike to school so please be extra careful when driving, and make sure you yield to pedestrians at street corners. State law requires drivers to stop and allow pedestrians to cross the street at an intersection, even in the absence of a marked sidewalk. If you are behind a bus, keep your distance and do not pass when the lights are flashing, and the stop arm is extended.

Please stay safe as we send best wishes to our students and staff in the community on a great year ahead.



BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS

The City has several Board and Commissions that provide recommendations to the City Council on issues related to park improvement, economic development, housing, street improvements, utility rates, and land use matters. Membership on these boards is a great way to get involved and make a positive impact in our community. Volunteers in these positions are extremely valuable to City Council by providing the necessary research and development to help guide the City Council in making well informed and educated decisions.

Membership on these Boards and Commissions is open to residents of the city. The Mayor may recommend non-resident business owners for appointment if there are not enough applications from residents to fill the seats.

There are currently immediate openings on the Public Works advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission. If you are interested in filling the immediate openings or future openings on one of these boards or commissions, please contact City Hall for an application.

Planning and Zoning Commission- This Commission is responsible for reviewing land use applications such as variances, conditional use permits, subdivisions, and other applications to ensure they conform to the city's zoning and subdivision codes. They make recommendations to the Council on approval or denial. The Commission reviews and updates the city's Comprehensive Plan and makes recommendations to the city's codes and zoning districts to ensure conformance with the comprehensive plan. The Commission consists of five members serving a term of three years. Meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Public Works Advisory Board- This Board consists of five members serving three-year terms. The board reviews street and utility projects, makes recommendations to the Council on street maintenance projects, and recommends the rates for utilities and special assessments. This Board meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Economic Development Authority- The EDA works to promote and expand the city's tax base. They do this by working with businesses to remain, expand, and locate in the community. They can recommend to the Council business assistance options such as tax abatements, tax increment finance, loans, and grants to encourage business growth and expansion. The board consists of seven members, consisting of five community members and two council representatives. Members serve a six-year term. Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board- This Board makes recommendations to the Council on development and improvement of the City's parks and

trails. The board works with the various youth and adult athletic groups to maintain and improve the fields and facilities. The board also reviews and comments on proposed subdivisions by recommending park dedication action to the planning and zoning commission. The board has five members with the Community Education Director being an ex-officio member. Members serve three-year terms and meet on the second Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are held at City Hall.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority- Members of this Board are responsible for ensuring the City's public housing inventory is maintained and in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development rules and regulations. The board also develops additional housing units as allowed by HUD and may implement other programs to improve the city's housing stock. There are five members on this board, consisting of three residents, one Council Representative, and the City Administrator.

CHANGE IN RULES ON LAWN MAINTENANCE

The Minnesota Legislature passed a new law changing how cities can regulate lawn maintenance. The new law allows property owners to create managed natural landscapes on their property. A "managed natural landscape" is a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, such as rain gardens, meadow and prairie vegetation, and ornamental plants, etc., but do not include turf grass. These plantings are not limited in how tall they can grow, nor if they go to seed.

Managed natural landscapes will not be allowed in the public right of way. If you are planning to convert your lawn to a managed natural landscape, we encourage you to consult with city staff prior to undertaking the project.

Owners who wish to install a managed natural landscape will need to remove existing turf grasses, and then maintain the area such that turf grasses and weeds are kept out of the planting.

Allowing your turf grasses and other vegetation to grow unabated to return to its "natural state" does not qualify as a managed natural landscape. Turf grass lawns are still required to be mowed and maintained to a height of not more than eight inches (8") and are not allowed to go to seed. Lawns exceeding 8" or that go to seed, are subject to a nuisance compliance letter.

Council Contact Information

Mayor Tom Eisert

teisert@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Council member Mick McGuire

mmcguire@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Council member Bob Forcelle

bforcelle@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Council member Zack Matson

zmatson@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Council member Butch Kubes

bkubes@cityofmontgomerymn.com

City Contact Information

www.cityofmontgomerymn.com

City Hall: 507.364.8888

Police Department: 507.364.8000 or 507-364-7700

Brian Heck, City Administrator

bheck@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Patti Soukup, Clerk/Treasurer

psoukup@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Christina Dietz, Utility Billing

cdietz@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Kate Gaul, Administrative Assistant

kgaul@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Joshua Mankowski, Planner/Economic Development

jmankowski@cityofmontgomerymn.com

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/cityofmontgomerymn