

# City Highlights

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## Don't Be Salty... Salt Smart This Winter!

Salt is an important means of preventing slips, falls and accidents on our walkways and roads each winter. Unfortunately, salt can have a detrimental impact on our habitat and environment if overused. According to environmental experts, it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater eco-systems. To protect our lakes and community, please consider using salt cautiously and sparingly. Here are some suggestions to help maximize the benefits of minimal salt use this winter: Most salts stop working at temperatures around 15 degrees Fahrenheit, try to avoid using salt at temperatures around there and lower. While it won't melt the ice, using sand as a salt substitute when it is cold can help with traction and visibility of slippery areas. You can probably use less salt than you think. Salt will continue to melt ice even after it dilutes into the melted ice water. Spreading salt on ice is very effective if the salt grains are spread out to the point they resemble stars in the night sky. If you notice excess salt on a dry pavement, it can still be swept up and re-used at a later time. That will help conserve salt usage and help keep it from washing down into the storm drains. Thank you for your smart usage of salt this winter.



## Become an Election Judge

Montgomery is accepting Election Judge applications for 2024. Becoming an election judge is a great way to learn about elections and is an opportunity to serve in your community! Consider working the elections this year. You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write, and speak English. Your employer is required by law to provide you time off from work to serve with no reduction in pay. Election judges are paid \$14 per hour; head election judges are paid \$15 per

hour. Judges are assigned to morning, afternoon, or all-day shifts and are required to take at least two hours of paid training. For more information call City Clerk / Treasurer Patti Soukup or email [psoukup@cityofmontgomerymn.com](mailto:psoukup@cityofmontgomerymn.com) for more information.

## Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer was identified as being present in the city a couple of years ago. The city has many Ash trees in the boulevards and parks. Last summer, the city did an inventory and assessment of Ash trees in Memorial and Northside Parks in an effort to determine the extent of this disease. The assessment indicated all the Ash trees in the two parks are afflicted with the disease. Based on the size and age of the trees, it is suspected they have been significantly impacted to the point of needing the trees removed.

While there is an insecticide treatment available, it was determined this approach is not viable. Each tree would require insecticide treatment every other year for the remaining life of the tree, and there is no guarantee the tree will survive, and it then would need removal.

The city has made the decision to remove all the infected Ash trees this winter. We will be working with a contractor for this removal. Following the removal, the city will be planting a variety of trees. Some of the varieties include Linden, Elm, Kentucky Coffee, Oak, Honey Locust, etc. The variety of trees should protect the parks from future infestations to specific species. To help offset the cost of the project, the city applied for a shade tree grant through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The grant, if received, would cover about 90% of the cost of removal and replacement.

## Community Garden

The Community Garden will be back for another year. Located near the Montgomery water tower, residents can rent a 10 x 10 plot to garden over the summer. The fee to reserve a plot is \$15 per plot. An additional damage deposit of \$25 per plot will also be collected. This deposit will be returned once the plot is left clean and in good standing at the end of the planting season.

New gardeners can sign-up for a plot beginning February 1. Previous gardeners can reserve their plot this month. For more information and to reserve your garden plot, contact City Hall or email [kgaul@cityofmontgomerymn.com](mailto:kgaul@cityofmontgomerymn.com).

### Compost Site

The City's compost site is now closed for the winter. The site will re-open in the spring when the weather conditions allow access to the site.

### ATV's and Golf Carts

Golf carts, side-by-sides, and ATVs require a license to operate on the streets of Montgomery. All licenses expired on December 31 and must be renewed if you plan to use your vehicle in 2024.

License applications can be downloaded from the City's website or picked up at City Hall or the Police Department. Completed applications along with the \$20.00 license fee can be dropped off at City Hall or the Police Department.

When applying, you will need to show proof of insurance and a valid driver's license.

As a reminder:

- ❖ The operator must be 16 years of age or older. Children younger than 16 are not to be in control of the special use vehicle in any way.
- ❖ All occupants must be seated on a seat designed for passengers – no persons sitting on laps, and a special use vehicle with a "bed" in the rear cannot carry passengers.
- ❖ All operators and passengers who are under the age of 18 must wear a DOT certified helmet.

A complete list of rules and regulations can be found on the City's website.

### Animal Regulations

The City of Montgomery requires each dog in the city that is over 6 months old to be licensed. The license is good for two years and costs \$5.00. Licenses can be obtained at the Police Department or City Hall.

Residents can have a total of four animals, of which only three can be dogs. Wild animals, farm animals and some exotic animals are not permitted to be kept within city limits. This includes poisonous or constricting reptiles, hedgehogs, goats, chickens, ducks, pigs, ferrets, geese, etc.

When out with your dog, you must always have it leashed and please remember to clean up after your pet. We also encourage all dog and cat owners to have their pet microchipped. A lost animal with a microchip is reunited with its family more quickly.

### Council Contact Information

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### City Contact Information

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