

**IDEATEK
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
FOR THE PUBLIC
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024
7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM**



The City Public Works Department provides this annual free curbside collection for residential customers. Different materials are picked up on different days subject to weather conditions, but **please have all materials at your curb by Monday, April 8** and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Keep piles away from utilities and meter pits.
- ▶ Old appliances that contain Freon, including dehumidifiers, must have it safely removed and tagged by a certified technician. (Call area HVAC businesses to see if they provide this service.)
- ▶ Materials must be separated into groups:
 - **Construction/demolition**—dry wall, lumber pieces, etc.
 - **Junk**—furniture, toys, lamps, box springs, etc.
 - **Metals**—water heaters, grills, mowers, etc.
 - **Limbs, brush & thorny vegetation**
 - **Bagged yard waste** (leaves, grass clippings, etc) – You can start setting bagged yard waste out early.

Excluded materials include normal recyclables, household trash, hazardous wastes (motor oil, pesticides, solvents, paint, etc.), liquids, tires, concrete or large amounts of wood.



1ST QUARTER CITY HAPPENINGS

- New Mayor Ron Ratzlaff, re-elected Kurt Friesen and newly elected Marissa Murphy were sworn in January 8.
- Reorganized the Council, selecting Mark Jenkins as the Council President.
- IdeaTek fiber optics installation began in town.
- Celebrate Kansas Day held January 27 at Kauffman Museum attracted 775 visitors.
- Appointed Dennis Campbell as the North Newton representative for the Public Wholesale Water District #17.
- Approved an agreement with the State of Kansas and memorandum of understanding with the City of Halstead and the City of Sedgwick for the SEED grant.
- Created a cell phone stipend policy.
- Ordered a 2024 F550 cab-chassis for a dump truck to replace the 1993 dump truck.
- Ordered a 2024 Dodge Durango for the Police Department to replace the 2017 Ford Explorer.
- Implemented a temporary shift differential for part-time police officers to help with coverage.
- Selected Scott Metzler to complete a strategic plan for the City.
- Negotiated a new franchise ordinance with Kansas Gas Service.
- Approved the resealing of Regal Crescent, Jasper, Sapphire, and Emerald Courts, part of Ivy Drive and a portion of 26th Street.



BUILDING PERMITS

In 2022 the City adopted the 2018 editions of the International Building Code and International Residential Code (with certain amendments and deletions). In that ordinance it states that it is unlawful for projects to commence without first obtaining the proper permits. In 2023 we passed an ordinance updating the building permit fee structure. A building permit is required when a project with a contractor is valued at \$1000 or more or a DIY project is valued at \$500 or more. The following is a partial list:

- Remodels, additions, detached garages or sheds
- Re-roofing, re-siding, adding a deck or deck cover, such as a pergola

- Replacing/installing air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, water softeners
- Irrigation systems on city water
- Electrical re-wiring, adding circuits

Building Permit applications are available at City Hall, at <https://www.northnewton.org>, or by calling the office for an emailed version. Coordinate with staff regarding payment and any inspections required. **Permits and fees must be processed before work commences or fees are doubled.**



Meet Titus Nisly. He is North Newton's trash and recycling collector every Monday. Titus has worked for Nisly Brothers since 1975 and is a cousin to the three Nisly Brothers who began the company. He lives in rural Hutchinson with his wife Marijane and enjoys working on his family farm and reading.

Titus brings his humor and wit every time he stops in at City Hall. Did you know that on collection days he checks with City Hall twice to see if there are any concerns from citizens or issues to take care of before leaving town?



Greg Bontrager has recently been hired as the Associate Director for the Newton and North Newton Community Foundations. The Newton and North Newton Community Foundations jointly applied for a Community Foundation Capacity Building Program grant, through the Patterson Family Foundation, which funds the position for 3 years.



Greg retired after 33 years teaching vocal music in the Goessel (KS) and the Buhler (KS) school districts. He holds a Master of Music Education degree from Wichita State University. He has been involved as an adjudicator and clinician for school choirs, competitions, and festivals. In addition, Greg

has served as the South Central District Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) Choir Chairman, State KMEA Choir Chairman, president of the Kansas Choral Directors Association and is in his 17th year as the Kansas Mennonite Men's Choir Director.

Greg is a resident of North Newton. His family includes wife, Melody, and children Shawn, Seth, Marissa & Nathan Murphy and grandsons James and Charlie Murphy.



“Flushable” wipes are really NOT flushable because they don’t dissolve! They cause serious sewage problems and backups that are costly to fix. Flush only bodily waste and toilet paper down the toilet.

OH, BY THE WAY...

- ▶ If you have a public sidewalk on your property please clear hazards that could cause trips and falls, such as sticks, seed pods, rocks, and offsets in concrete greater than one inch.
- ▶ Some reminders from our trash service provider: **bagged** trash in the green bin; **loose** recyclables in the tan bin; latch bins when setting out at the curb.
- ▶ At the time of publication, the Bethel College Mennonite Church is still collecting plastic bags and plastic film as part of a challenge to reach 1000 lbs. A collection receptacle is at City Hall. More details are on the City’s website homepage.



▶ Your house number should be clearly visible, even at night, and at least 4” in height. **Emergency services cannot help you if they cannot find you!**

- ▶ Sewer consumption was re-averaged on this billing for each residential customer. That means the water usage found on your January, February, and March bills was averaged together

then plugged in as your new sewer consumption. The city does take into consideration when verified leaks discharge water into the ground. However, indoor plumbing issues that occurred during the re-average period are the customer’s responsibility.

▶ The City Council will hold a spring work session April 2 at 6:30 p.m. Although the public is welcome to attend, there is not a time for public comment.

▶ The next three regularly scheduled City Council meetings will be April 8, May 13, and June 10 at 7:00 P.M. Opportunity is given at the opening of each council meeting for members of the public to speak.



CITY ORDINANCES OF INTEREST

Since North Newton’s incorporation in 1938 there have been 653 local ordinances passed over the years. While many have been repealed over time, quite a few remain on the books. Ordinances passed in the last few years can be viewed on our website.

Here is a brief look at some that may be of interest:

Ord. 163 – Addresses barking dogs.

Ord. 444 – Our “Fireworks” ordinance addressing the type of fireworks one can possess and the discharge of fireworks on July 4th only.

Ord. 472 – Requires removal of animal feces by owner, walker, or keeper of a pet from public areas, sidewalks, paths, parks, etc.

Ord. 561 – Our “Environmental” ordinance addressing unsightly and hazardous conditions.

Ord. 568 – Our “Peddler” ordinance requiring door-to-door salespersons to obtain a City permit.

Ord. 577 – Prohibits open dumping of solid waste.

Ord. 582 – Pertains to the removal of tall weeds, grasses and brush on private property that exceeds 12” tall and is deemed a blight.

Ord. 589 – Annual city pet tags are required for all dogs and cats.

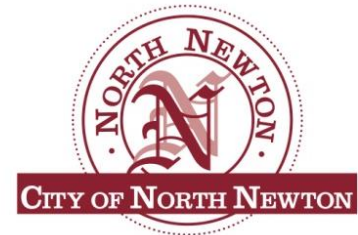
Ord. 590 – Curfew ordinance for those under the age of 18 with certain areas and times given. There are exceptions.

Ord. 593 – Our “Noise” ordinance that sets noise restrictions generally from 10 pm to 7 am and in certain locations.

Ord. 649 – Relates to the care, placement and removal of trees in public rights-of-way and removal of dead or diseased trees on private property.

“Spring’s greatest joy beyond a doubt is when it brings the children out.” --Edgar Guest

April 2024



2601 North Main; P.O. Box 87
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Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 5:00
Friday 8:00 – Noon

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A quarterly newsletter for
the people of North Newton