

Charlack Newsletter

Message from your Mayor:

December 2004

Just like that, 2004 is gone! I hope everyone has a great new year in 2005. 2005! Can you believe it?? We saw a lot of changes at City Hall in 2004. It seems as though we are in a good place and City Hall is running very smooth. I am comfortable with all of the new policies and people we have in place and I am very optimistic about the coming year. As you know from the last newsletter, elections this April involve my seat as your Mayor and I have filed for re-election. Charlack has seen a lot of changes and positive improvements since I have been your Mayor and I hope that we can continue to do the right things for our community. (Sorry for getting this newsletter out so late this month!!)

Election Filing: Elections for City officials for the City of Charlack will be held this April 5th. Offices up for election this year are Alderman Ward 1 (Currently Alderman Morice's seat), Alderman Ward 2 (Currently Alderman Mabra's seat) and the Mayor's seat, held by me! You can file for one of these offices by coming to City Hall during normal business hours. There is a \$50.00 filing fee for Mayor and a \$25.00 filing fee for Alderman. Filing dates are open now and will be open until January 18th at 5:00pm.

Officer of the Month and Officer of the Year: Congratulations to Sergeant Vince Delia for winning the officer of the month for December! Also, congratulations to John Beekman and Vince Delia, who have tied for the Officer of the Year award! Well Done!

Codification: We will be passing an ordinance at the February 8th Board meeting that will approve the codification of our ordinances. Our end of the process has been completed and we are waiting for the publication company to "deliver the goods."

Holiday Lighting Contest: Congratulations to our winners for the Holiday Lighting Contest! 1st place went to 8711 Olden, 2nd place went to 8647 Olden, and 3rd place went to 8430 Ann Ave. There was a lot of competition this year! Our judges saw several houses that didn't have their lights on the night they were judging, some of them looked like competitors! Don't forget next year to check the date of the contest and congratulations once again to our winners!

Police personnel: Chief Palme has hired our 2nd part time police officer, officer Brad Lawrence. Brad has been with Charlack for several years as a reserve officer and has recently graduated from the Police Academy. Welcome Brad! Chief will also be submitting a name to the Board of Alderman within the next week or so for the full time officer. Our Police Department will be back to full staff shortly.

Warming your vehicles: There has been a lot of news lately about vehicles being stolen while they are warming up in the driveway or street. Charlack does not have an ordinance against leaving your vehicle unattended, but we urge you to consider the importance of having a warm car versus having your car stolen. There is only so much our Police officers can do when there is an unattended running car! Also, don't forget that going into 7-11 or Mobil while your car is running in the parking lot is an open invitation for someone to steal it.

Street Sweeper: I have been in contact with a few other municipalities and am trying to get a street sweeper to come through town once or twice a year. I've driven through town and the gutters of our streets look bad. More will follow, however, I am not getting a great response from the other cities. The sweeper is an extremely expensive piece of equipment and I understand the reluctance to "loan" it out. In the meantime, thanks to those who have swept and bagged their own. It sure makes a difference!

A "Little Mix Up": In the last newsletter, I told you all of a group of folks that will be coming through town "Caroling for Cans." Apparently, there was some confusion on our end and it did not happen. I apologize to those who had their cans ready. Next year we will be a little more organized. We did have a great surprise in that the Cub Scouts did carol that night on a few streets! Many thanks to them!!

Trash Service: I have received several complaint calls recently with our trash contractor Excel. One of the main complaints I have heard is the way Charlack residents are treated when they call Excel. We have an ordinance that makes Excel the only trash company allowed in Charlack. I have called Excel, and they have expressed interest in withdrawing from Charlack. Therefore, I have scheduled a Public Hearing to discuss the service that we have been getting and the possibility of changing trash contractors:

Public Hearing

**Tuesday, February 1st
7:00pm at City Hall**

- *Trash Service
- *6 month Budget Review
- *Planning and Zoning

Up and Coming:

Tuesday, January 18th – Last day for election filing for City Offices (open until 5:00pm)

Tuesday, January 25th – Work Session – 7:00pm at City Hall

Tuesday, February 1st – Public Hearing – 7:00pm at City Hall

Tuesday, February 8th – Board Meeting – 7:00pm at City Hall

Santa in Town: The day Santa and Mrs. Claus came through Charlack was probably the coldest day of the year, but what a great turnout we had. Lots of families and kids braved the weather to get some candy and sit on Santa's lap. Thanks to all of the elves that helped make this a fun event and a special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus, who never took a break to warm up! I guess you get used to the cold weather if you live in the North Pole!!

Food Pantry Addition: Folks, in the last newsletter, I named the municipalities that were active in the Food Basket Program. I failed to mention one City, and it happens to be the City that is probably the most active. St. John's, and Terry Milam in particular, are the motor that turns the wheel for this program, not to mention that they were one of the founders. St. John's is a good and important neighbor to Charlack and I apologize for leaving them out of my last newsletter!! A special thanks to Jim Freeman (Freeman Contracting) for the use of his warehouse once again.

Charlack's Calendar Year in Review:

- Made Lackland Road a No Truck Route in an effort to preserve our roads.
- Challenged the Post Dispatch regarding a felonious article they wrote about our Police Department. (To date, I am still waiting for their reply).
- Secured a grant and demolished an old City owned house and resurrected a restroom for our park.
- Installed playground equipment for our park from a previous grant.
- Completely worked through the annexation process and decided not to move forward with the project.
- Agreed to sell the area known as the Upper Park and brought a multi-million dollar business to Charlack.
- Completely restructured our financial business plan that included hiring a CPA and purchasing new budget software to better manage our books. Our budget is 100% accurate in all departments.
- Established a "City of Charlack" website for our residents and others. To date, we have had over 2000 hits!
- FINALLY RE-PAVED MARSHALL ROAD!
- Seen many personnel changes including our Municipal attorney, Chief of Police, Sergeant of Police, Code Enforcement, and several officers. The Board also approved a part time City Clerk which has worked out much better than expected. Included in these personnel changes was the restructuring of our Police Department and the elimination of several programs such as the SRT Team, motorcycle program and Mobile Reserves. These changes were implemented to allow our Police force to better focus on our town and our residents.
- Completed the codification process that was started years ago.
- Incorporated new events for our City such as Ward parties, Senior Picnic, Citywide garage sale, July 4th parade and Kids day.

The Crystal Ball for 2005

These are items that I would like to see happen in our City for the upcoming year. They are in no order and some of these will require much discussion and input from all of you:

- Bring another "big" revenue generating business to Charlack.
- Completely research all aspects of obtaining a new City Hall for Charlack.
- Maintain the positive improvements we have made this year such as financial stability, good resident relations and the settling down of the personnel changes we have made.
- Continued scrutiny of our budget and smart spending that will (1)repair and maintain our infrastructure, (2)allow us to offer services to our residents and (3)allow us to retain good employees.

Please be respectful of your neighbors

Please feel free to call me with any questions, concerns, or complaints. If you do not want to receive this every month, call me, and I will take you off the list. Thanks!

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(Paid for by Jim Beekman)