

Charlack Newsletter

Message from your Mayor:

November 2005

First of all, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Charlack will once again have Santa come through town and we encourage you to invite your kids and grandkids back home to have a seat on his lap and get some North Pole candy. The details are on the back of this newsletter. What a great way to spend an afternoon!

This has once again been a prosperous year for our City. Your Board, myself and the City employees continue their dedication to make Charlack a great City.

Alderman Gene Speed: Alderman Speed has resigned his Ward 2 Aldermanic seat effective immediately. Gene was first elected in 2002 and re-elected for his second term in 2004. Due to health concerns, he has decided that it would be in his (and the City's) best interest to relinquish his seat. Alderman Speed has been instrumental in the many positive changes Charlack has gone through in the past few years. On behalf of the Board of Alderman and the City employees, I thank Gene for his unselfish community service and wish him and his family well.

Election Filing: Candidate filing opens December 13, 2005 at 8:00 am and closes January 6, 2006 at 5:00 pm for the April 4, 2006 General Municipal Election. Offices coming up for election are one seat each for Alderman Ward 1 (currently held by Alderman Chris Brun) and Alderman Ward 2 (currently vacant).

Fireworks and Firearms: As the New Year approaches, I'd like to remind all residents that shooting firearms or fireworks in the City is illegal. In an effort to keep our residents safe and follow the laws prohibiting these items, our officers have been told to strongly enforce this law. We want everyone to enjoy the coming of the new year safely!!

Officer of the Month: Congratulations to Officer Robert Leesman for obtaining the officer of the month for November!

December 27th Work Session: The Work Session scheduled for December 27th has been cancelled. At this time there are no plans to reschedule. If there is a need to meet, we will post the meeting as always outside of City Hall. You can also call Zella at City Hall at anytime to find meeting information.

Senior Rebate: REMINDER: Monday, December 5th is the last day to apply for the Senior Rebate. Please call City Hall with any questions – 427-4715.

Lawsuit: In my last newsletter, I discussed a lawsuit that was filed against the City and its elected officials. This lawsuit was filed by a business that wanted to move into Charlack. The Board denied their application and that is why they sued us. After many meetings and discussions, our City Attorney advised that although we feel we are legal in our position, that fighting a lawsuit of this nature would be very costly and that even with a solid case, there is always a chance of losing. The suit sought damages of four million dollars. Reluctantly, the Board (and I) felt it would be in the best interest of the City to not fight this lawsuit. Therefore, Financial Services of Missouri will be moving into Lackland Plaza in the near future. This is an establishment that grants small loans and payday loans.

Trash Bills: Since the onset of the new trash service last year, I have not heard many complaints about the Trash Tax or the billing. As you may have known from previous newsletters, Trash Tax has been bought by Throw 'n Go. There are no changes in our 5 year plan. There are still a few residents who have not paid their trash bills. As a reminder, the \$10 a month is to be considered a "municipal fee," and needs to be paid up by the end of the year. I am hopeful that we have been flexible enough with our billing to make it as easy as possible for everyone (some have paid for the year, some monthly) to pay this bill. I know I speak on behalf of the Board that we do not wish to have this fee added to the municipal tax that you pay at the end of the year. There would have to be an additional fee to do that. We are fortunate enough that the City can afford to pay for a portion of the bill and not have any increases in our service for the life of the 5 year contract, have appliances picked up for no additional charges, yard waste and bulk trash, as well as the weekly trash pick up. Please contact Zella at City Hall if your bills are in arrears.

Food Basket Program: Charlack is once again very involved with the Food Basket Program. Vinita Park, St. Ann, Overland, Charlack, Woodson Terrace, Edmundson, Breckenridge Hills and St. John along with the Ritenour School District and several scouting groups have joined together as they have in years past to collect food for those in need. For the last several years, Freeman Contracting has graciously donated their warehouse as the "collection location." What a great thing for them to do every year. They have once again offered, however, our new City property has an empty, heated garage that we feel might serve us better. I can't thank Jim Freeman enough for what he had done for this program as well as what he continues to do for our City. As we seem to be every year, we need donations of non-perishable items, especially canned meals, such as soups, chili's, beef stews, etc. Any help you can give for this worthy cause would be greatly appreciated. You can either drop off your items at City Hall or call Zella to schedule a pick up. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help sort the items, please call Chief Palme. Zella or the Chief can be reached at City Hall at 427-4715.

Warner's Winter Warm Up: Thanks to all those who donated new or gently used coats. We had great participation once again this year.

Up and Coming:

- Monday, December 5th – Last Day to file for Senior Rebate
- Weekend, December 11th and 12th – Caroling for Cans
- Tuesday, December 13th – Date for filing for Alderman begins at 8:00am
- Tuesday, December 13th – Board Meeting – 7:00pm at City Hall
- Sunday, December 18th – Santa comes through town (See below for details)
- Wednesday, December 21st – Holiday Lighting Contest judging – Dark until 8:30pm
- Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day
- Monday, December 26th – City Hall Closed
- Sunday, January 1st – New Years Day
- Monday, January 2nd – City Hall Closed

*The Work Session scheduled for December 27th has been cancelled

November Voting:

There were no ordinances or resolutions in November. There was a motion made and seconded that we add a heating system to the new Public Works garage. Cost for this was \$3100.00 All Aldermen voted "AYE." Motion passed.

Holiday Lighting Contest: Once again, Charlack will have a Holiday Lighting Contest for the best Christmas decorations. I have contacted Mayors and elected officials from other municipalities to be our judges. Houses will be judged on Wednesday, December 21 between the hours of dark and 8:30pm. Awards will be given to the best decorated houses – 1st place - \$75. 2nd place - \$50 3rd place - \$25. Last year, we passed many houses that could have easily been candidates but did not have their lights on!! Good luck to all, and let's light up Charlack again this year!

Santa Claus is Coming!!

Santa will arrive in Charlack at 11:00am on Sunday, December 18. It will take him a few hours to get through town, so please check out the schedule for your street. Have your kids and grandkids over for lunch or early dinner and visit with Santa as he comes to each street on a horse drawn carriage while passing out candy for the kids! This is a great annual event that you don't want to miss!



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| Marshall: 11:00 am | Lackland: 1:10pm – 1:25pm |
| Windom: 11:10 | Pomona: 1:00 – 1:25 |
| McKibbon: 11:10 | Lehigh: 1:15 – 1:25 |
| Burton: 11:15 – 11:35 | Gilrose: 1:25 – 1:45 |
| Argyle: 11:35 – 12:00 pm | Midland: 2:45 – 2:00 |
| Walton: 12:00 – 12:15 | Bristow: 2:00 – 2:30 |
| Forest: 12:20 – 12:40 | Ackerman: 2:35 – 2:45 |
| Olden: 12:40 – 1:00 | Ann: 2:45 – 3:00 |
| Forest (8500 block): 1:00 | |
| Masterson: 1:10 | |

*These are estimates!
Please allow a little
time either way!!*

(The horse has trouble stopping in the middle of a street that is on an incline. You may have to walk a few houses up to the corner if your street has an incline such as the 8700 blocks of Burton or Olden)

Please Be Respectful of your Neighbors!

Jim Beekman,
Mayor – City of Charlack
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