



Water Rate Increase

In accordance with Ordinance 1292 passed by the Village Board on November 27th, water billing rates will be increasing by 5% as of January 1, 2007. This increase will be reflected in the water bills that will be mailed out on April 1st, which will be for the water used in January and February. The sewer maintenance fee will also increase from \$.50 to \$1.00 per billing period.

Consumers within the Village limits now pay \$2.55 per 1,000 gallons, up from \$2.42. Consumers outside the Village limits will pay \$.10 per 1,000 gallons, compared with last year's rate of \$.483. Any questions regarding this increase can be directed to the Water Billing Clerks at (630) 896-1357.

Automatic Debit

To have your water and garbage bill automatically deducted from your checking account simply complete a Direct Payment Debit Form and submit it to the Water Department with a voided check. Applications are available by calling 630-896-8080 x 30 or stop in at the Village Hall.

A reminder:

If you are banking online and are having a bank forward a check to pay your water bill, please be sure to have the facility include the full account number (10 digits) and your name and address to assure proper credit to your account.

Coffee with the Mayor

Village President Marilyn Michelini will hold the next "Coffee with the Mayor" on Saturday, February 3rd from 9-11 a.m. in the farmhouse at the **Murst-Dickson Farm, 2550 Dickson Road**. This is a great opportunity for residents to meet with the Village President on an informal basis and discuss items of concern. Holding the coffee in the farmhouse will also give attendees a chance to see the inside of this renovated building that The Conservation Foundation is now using as office space.

Refreshments will be provided. No Coffee will be held in March due to the Village's Annual Open House on March 17th.

Watermain Breaks

In addition to ice and snow, cold weather brings on another winter worry – water main breaks. Uneven freezing and thawing of the ground can cause high stresses on water mains, eventually causing some of them to crack and break, especially the older, less flexible cast iron water pipes.

Residents are encouraged to call Public Works at 896-9241 if they suspect a water main break. Signs of a possible main break include unusual amounts of water flowing down the road gutter; a wet area in a yard that is not usually there, or a significant drop in water pressure. After normal work hours, residents may call the Montgomery Police Department at 897-8707 to report a possible main break.

In the event of a water main break, the first goal of the Public Works crews is to provide safe roadway conditions for motorists. Occasionally this necessitates streets being closed until the break is repaired. Once a safe area is established, crews will expose the water main to locate the leak and repair the pipe, then backfill the area with crushed rock up to the level of the street. These areas will be patched once warm weather returns.

One of the biggest inconveniences to residents during water main break repairs is the loss of water pressure to their homes. During the repair process, water main valves must be shut, and nearby homes temporarily lose their water service. Village crews will try to schedule repairs to avoid shutting off water during the high-use periods such as early mornings. On large leaks or emergency repairs, crews may need to shut off water immediately upon arrival at the site. Public Works will give their best effort to properly and efficiently repair these breaks and restore water service as soon as safely possible.

Code Enforcement

Residents need to remember not to put their garbage/recycle containers out to the curb before 4 PM the night before collection and must bring them back in from the curb the same day as pickup. Residents are also reminded garbage and recycle containers need to be stored properly and not left on driveways in front of garage doors. Residents should also remember some garbage could require stickers for pickup.

All vehicles on residential property must be operable and in a working condition. This means the vehicles must have air in tires, not be on jacks, not have windows broken out or severe body damage, valid registration and must be moveable or able to be driven.

Residents that have snowmobiles are prohibited from storing them in a front or side yard. Snowmobiles are also prohibited from being stored on trailers in the driveways of residences. Residents should also be aware it is illegal to park vehicles across or blocking the sidewalks. It is also illegal to park in front of a mailbox and obstruct delivery from the postal carriers.

Anyone with questions or concerns is welcome to call the Code Enforcement Officer, Randy Caho, at the Montgomery Village Hall at (630) 896-8080 ext. 27.

Community Development Update

Recently the Village updated its Comprehensive Plan. Also updated was the Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Plan and the Village's Zoning map. These items can be found on the Village's website at <http://ci.montgomery.il.us>, under the Community Development link.

Don't Get Hooked by Phishing Scams!

Phishing is a type of Internet scam where scammers send out baited "hooks" in the form of emails, hoping to reel in personal information from unsuspecting victims. Typical phishing emails claim to be from legitimate companies, such as credit card companies, banks or eBay, and ask you to verify your personal information in order to avoid having your account frozen or some other dire consequence. However, if you click on the link provided in the email, you will be taken to a website that looks just like that organization's website, but is actually a clever copy designed to fool you into revealing personal information that can be used to steal your identity or gain access to your accounts.

Billions of phishing emails are circulated each year. To keep from getting hooked by a scammer, NEVER reply to an email requesting that you "verify," "update" or "confirm" your account information. If you are concerned about your account, contact the organization directly by opening a new Internet browser window and typing in the company's correct web address yourself, or call them using a telephone number you know is valid. NEVER click on a link provided in this type of email or cut and paste it.

Another type of phishing scam involves sending an email thanking you for your purchase of some expensive item and saying they are billing your credit card for a certain amount. They are hoping that people will respond to protest that they did not make the purchase, at which time the scammer attempts to get name and credit card numbers to ensure you won't be billed for the item—when in reality, you have just provided that information to a scammer who can use it to run up a bill in your name. Instead, look up the name of the company and contact them via phone if you are concerned.

If you are starting to feel a bit paranoid at this point about using email and online accounts—GOOD! Everyone needs to be extremely wary about unsolicited email offers and online purchases. Following are some tips to help protect yourself against phishing scams and other Internet dangers:

- When using online accounts, look for indicators that the site is secure, like a lock icon on the browser's status bar, or an email address that begins with https: rather than http:—the "s" stands for "secure." Unfortunately, some phishers have forged security icons, so even that is not foolproof.
- Make sure the Internet connection and Web site are secure. Shop only from your home computer, not Internet cafes or places with unsecured wireless connections.
- Use your credit card online, but not your debit card, since debit cards do not always have the same amount of fraud protection.
- Buy gift cards directly from the retailer, not from online auctions or classifieds. Web sites that solicit personal information with the promise of free gift cards or other incentives are not usually legitimate.
- Shop at trusted, recognized Web sites. Amazon.com is going to be a safer shopping experience than JoeselectronicsHut.ph.
- Websites for retail stores located in your area will be more secure, plus you can return to the actual store if there is a problem.

Fences

The Village of Montgomery Zoning Code, as well as the Village Property Maintenance Code, require that fences must be maintained in good condition. Broken, rusted or leaning fences, or fences with missing components, are in violation of the aforementioned Village Code. These conditions are not only unsightly, but could pose a potential safety problem for the owner or the adjacent neighbor. Additionally, they defeat the privacy and security purposes of fencing. A fence with holes or missing pieces also allows pets or other animals in or out of the property.

During the winter, Building Inspectors will be driving all the neighborhoods to check the condition of fencing. Notices will be sent out to fence owners informing them of any problems and assigning a date for a re-inspection. Failure to have the condition corrected by that date may result in the issuance of a citation. Please keep your property safe and your neighborhood looking good by making sure your fence is in good condition.



G.O.P. Chat

Village Calendar

February 2007	
12th	Board Meeting Monday, 7:00 p.m.
15th	Plan Commission Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
20th	Committee of the Whole Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
26th	Board Meeting Monday, 7:00 p.m.

March 2007	
12th	Board Meeting Monday, 7:00 p.m.
15th	Plan Commission Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
20th	Committee of the Whole Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
26th	Board Meeting Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Holiday!

Village offices will be closed on the following date:

February 19th--Presidents' Day