

Manning Matters

December 2013



Message from the Mayor

We are now in one of the most precious times of the year for our beautiful city. You may have noticed that downtown has been adorned by the Manning Garden Clubs and from our contractor with our holiday lights. As always, I think it is simply spectacular. Please join me in thanking our Manning Garden Clubs and Main Street Manning for their continued efforts in beautifying our downtown.

I also would like to take this time to thank our local merchants for all you do in participating with community events. I know this does come with some inconveniences, sacrifices and expenses. However, we realize the importance of keeping our downtown vitalized for the good of the entire county. Your efforts are very much noticed and appreciated.

And we the public can show our appreciation for our local merchants by shopping locally. I'm going to claim that the City of Manning is the "*Boutique Capital of the Midlands*". We have some of the best boutiques with so many unique, elegant and afford-

able items to include clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations, etc. We all need to support them with our dollars being spent locally. And please let's not forget about our wonderful florists, Flowers De Linda's and Gibson Floral Cart.

Another great thing about Manning is we have several great places to grab a bite to eat. When you need a tasty treat while shopping, please visit our local restaurants and bakeries. We have a cute new and tasty shop, "Sugar and Spice Fairy" and several other eateries throughout Manning to include but not limited to "Sandwich Castle", "Calla Lily", "Substation II", "Subway", and all of our Barbeque and Asian dining facilities.

Please allow me to wish you "A Happy and Safe Holiday Season". I hope you will get to spend quality time with your family and friends. And as our family members return home, I hope they will still find us "Matchless for Beauty and Hospitality".

Julia A. Nelson

Mayor

Ladies Night Out

Clarendon Health Systems Cardiac Rehab presents Ladies Night Out Christmas Extravaganza on December 3, at the Cypress Center from 6 to 8 pm. Admission is \$10 and benefits the American Heart Association.

Snowball Hunt

Calling all children 11 and under to celebrate the Christmas season with a Snowball Hunt. Snowballs will be hidden in Gibbons Street Park. Be there at 10 am on Saturday, December 14 for instructions and to start the hunting! There will be three age groups, 3 and under, 4 to 6, and 7 to 11. One grand prize winner per age group. For more information contact City Hall, 435-8477. The Snowball Hunt is sponsored by Main Street Manning.

Elf

The Manning Youth Council presents *Elf* on Friday, December 6 at Weldon Auditorium at 6:30 pm. Cost of the movie is \$2.



Holiday Fire Safety Tips

There is nothing more cozy or relaxing than curling up in front of a roaring fire next to a majestic Christmas tree all a-twinkle with lights and ornaments. The lights illuminate every tiny branch and the room becomes a veritable Christmas wonderland. It is easy to get caught up in the Christmas season with its hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking, and celebrating, but holiday fire safety is definitely one thing to keep close in mind during the most jovial time of the year.

Fires during the holiday season injure approximately 2600 people and cause over \$930 million dollars in damage annually. So, while you are busy wrapping, caroling, and baking Christmas cookies, take some time to ensure that you have taken the proper steps towards Christmas fire safety.

Prevent Christmas Tree Fires

Consider artificial Christmas trees to further reduce the risk of fire. Always be sure that the tree you pick is freshly cut. Needles on fresh trees should be green, pliable, and firmly attached to the branches. The trunk of the tree should be sticky to the touch. The tried-and-true tap test determines the freshness of a tree: bounce the bottom of the tree trunk on the ground,

and if many needles fall off, your tree is not recently-cut and could pose a fire hazard. Never place your Christmas tree close to any sort of heat source, and always keep the tree stand filled with water. It is important not to put your Christmas tree up too early, or leave it up any longer than two weeks.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Holiday fire safety rules apply to the weeks following Christmas as well. When it is time to dispose of the tree, take it to a recycling center, or have it picked up by your local community pick-up service. Never put the tree, its branches or needles in your wood-burning stove or fireplace.

Holiday Lights and Decorations

The best way to avoid holiday fires is to make sure that all your decorative lights are well-maintained and never left on unattended. Inspect them carefully each year making sure to check for gaps in the insulation, cracked or broken sockets, frayed wires, and excessive wear and tear.

Do not overload electrical outlets.

It is not advisable to link more than three strands of lights together unless the accompanying instructions indicate that it is safe to do so. Plug the strands of lights into an exten-

sion cord before plugging into the wall outlet. It is a good idea to check them periodically; they should not be warm to the touch. All ornaments and decorations, including artificial Christmas trees, should be flame-retardant and non-flammable. They should also be kept away from all heating vents.

Wrapping Paper

Holiday wrapping paper, although similar to newspaper, should never be burned in a fireplace. Some types can produce sparks and, at times, a chemical build-up that could potentially cause an explosion.

Candles

Lastly, as romantic as candles may be, they should never be placed on a Christmas tree. If they are used in other parts of your home as holiday decorations, be sure to place them in proper candleholders in a low-traffic area. Lit candles must never be left unattended.

Fire alarms should be tested and cleaned regularly. It is also recommended that an emergency escape plan be established and exercised, and that all members of the household know who to contact in the event of a fire. Following these simple holiday fire safety tips will ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday season for everyone.



Municipal Parks and Playgrounds

Please note that the shelters at our Municipal Parks (Gibbons Street and Rex Josey) now need to be reserved for events, birthday parties, family reunions etc. The reservation form can be picked up at City Hall.

****During the week of Christmas (Dec. 25th), Wednesday trash customers will be picked up on Thursday, & Thursday customers will be picked up on Friday, & Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday.***