



Manning Matters

December 2014

Message from the Mayor

Our holiday season is now upon us. This is one of my favorite times of the year because it usually brings joy, love, and heartwarming thoughts. This is also a time when friends and acquaintances express their sincere thoughts for one another.

I think most would agree that our city is so beautiful with all of the lights and decorations. In the past, I've had people travelling through our city make the same comment. The efforts, from all of our citizens and business owners, to decorate for the holidays are greatly appreciated.

Our community has also had more than our share of losses due to death this year. Please keep these families in your thoughts. The first few holidays without loved ones can be very difficult. I know we have a very compassionate community and these families will be supported.

As always, thanks again for all you are doing to make our city remain true to its motto: "Matchless for Beauty and Hospitality".

Julia A. Nelson

The People's Mayor



On behalf of Chief Blair Shaffer and the entire staff of the Manning Police Department we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. To ensure your safety, please follow these tips. If you have any questions or concerns contact us at 435-8859.

- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it! Always park in a well lit and well traveled area. Do not park in a remote dark area.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle and be ready to unlock the door.
- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding in-

side. Check to see if you are being followed.

- When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or cellular telephone in plain view.
- Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead call 911.
- Lock your vehicle and put up your windows even while you are driving.
- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for

people around and make sure it is well lit and in a safe location.

- Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Beware of the "a good deal" scams. Things are not always what they appear to be.



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. 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 extension 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.

Polar Express Movie

The Manning Youth Council presents *The Polar Express* on Friday, December 5 at Weldon Auditorium at 6 pm. Cost of the movie is \$2.



Trash Pick Up

During the week of Christmas (December 25th), Thursday trash customers will be picked up on Friday, and Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday.

If your roll cart is damaged please contact the City of Manning Utility Department at 435-8477. The City will bring you a replacement cart.

