



City of Battlefield Newsletter

December 2015

An official publication of the City of Battlefield
www.battlefieldmo.gov

CITY MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the City of Battlefield is to serve its customers by providing courteous and responsive service; promoting economic opportunity; enhancing the quality of life for its citizens; and building a better City for future generations.

HOME BASED BUSINESSES

Do you have a home based business or are thinking of starting one? If so, you need a business license issued by the City of Battlefield just like any other business operating in a storefront. Do daycare in your home? You need a business license. Run a lawn care business from home? Yep, you need a business license. There are home businesses that are permitted and there are home occupations prohibited too. To find out which is which go to www.battlefieldmo.gov, under the departments header go to Municipal Ordinances Section 400.430, Home Occupations.

To get a business license, simply fill out the application for business license from the city website under forms and bring it in to City Hall, mail it in, or drop it off in our drop box at the base of the flagpole in front of City Hall. The cost is \$16.00 and licenses will be good through the end of calendar year 2016.

Rick Hess, City Administrator

BUILDING PERMITS

Are you doing work to your home; adding a room; modifying a room; doing electrical, plumbing, or natural gas work? Putting in a new AC/Furnace, water heater, gas stove? Building a home, putting up a business, adding a storage building over 150 square feet, putting on a deck or porch? If you are working on anything in your walls, modifying a building in any way, doing any gas work? This is not an inclusive list, so if you are going to do any work, give the City Inspector a call (883-5840) and ask if you will need a permit before you do any work. A few minutes spent finding out whether you need a permit now could save days or weeks of delay later.

You MUST have a building permit before you can do any of this work. We must inspect the work before it is acceptable to ensure that the work has been done to code to help protect your safety and the safety of neighbors. If it is discovered that work is being done without a valid permit, a stop work order will be issued and no more work can be done until a permit is applied for and issued.

Rick Hess, City Administrator

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAM

In recognition of American Indian Heritage Month, the City of Battlefield will host a program about the "Trail of Tears" on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at City Hall. Ted Hillmer, Superintendent of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, U.S. National Park Service (NPS), will speak on the new NPS historic trail designation granted by Congress to the Trail of Tears. This will include a 20 minute NPS video outlining information concerning the trail and the nine states it crossed. Joining Mr. Hillmer will be Terry Whaley, Executive Director of Ozark Greenways Trails. Mr. Whaley will discuss the trail's presence in Greene County and the Battlefield area, as well as future plans for the trail. Please join us for an exciting look at the Trail of Tears. Questions may be directed to city hall or Mayor Debra Hickey. The program will last approximately 90 minutes. Light refreshments will be served.

Debra Hickey, Mayor

HOLIDAY SECURITY

Whether you're leaving or staying home this holiday season, you can take steps to help make them safer for you and your family.

If you are leaving, call us with your information for our Vacation Watch Program. We'll make officers aware you are going to be gone so they can help watch for suspicious activity. The best step you can take is to have trusted friends, relatives, or neighbors watch your house. They should make it look lived in by getting the mail daily, change lighting and window shade patterns, etc.

If you stay home be careful what trash you put next to the curb. A box with a picture of a brand new big screen television or other electronic devices is a neon sign to a burglar. Tear the boxes down or better yet just recycle them.

It is sad to say, but many thefts this time of year come from within – usually cash and jewelry being stolen during a party or by people staying at your house; here, an ounce of prevention is truly worth it. People who would not otherwise consider stealing something are tempted by the opportunity and pressures of the season. Lock up your valuables!

Make sure you report suspicious activity immediately to 911. I regularly get calls from people who report something suspicious several days later – when in doubt, call. We'd rather investigate a dozen false alarms than have that one time when it matters, go unreported.

Chief David Vallely
Battlefield Police Department
890-9876

SAFETY TIPS FROM YOUR BATTLEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

With the decrease in the hours of daylight and cooler temperatures, so comes the dropping of leaves, the colors of fall, and the approach of the winter holiday season. To many, this time of year is embraced as an opportunity to spread holiday cheer with extravagant decorations or lighting displays and to spend time with family and friends over a large feast. To us, your local fire department, this also signifies the start of a busy time of year with an uptick in emergency calls for service. This time of year for the fire service is usually ushered in by an increase in the amount of home fires which sometimes results in loss of life and significant property damage.

On average, 905 Americans die in home fires during the holiday season and winter months. These fires during the holiday season and winter months will also result in nearly \$2,091,000,000 in damage nationwide.

So, as you deck the halls this season, be fire smart. Here are some tips to help you and your loved ones be fire smart:

For cooking those holiday feasts, remember to keep an eye on what you fry. Always stay alert when cooking and keep things that can catch fire away from the cooking area.

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. For screw in bulbs, don't use strands with more than 50 lights.

Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet, and never connect more than 3 strands together.

Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders, and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily. Keep them out of reach of children and pets and never leave them unattended. Also, keep them at least 12 inches from anything that will burn.

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources.

If you have a real tree, water it every day. This will aid in preventing the tree from drying out and posing more of a fire risk. Also, remember to dispose of it properly at the end of the holidays.

If you burn wood for heat, have your flue cleaned and inspected before the burning season.

And if you must use space heaters:

Place them on a solid, flat surface, away from high traffic areas and doorways.

Turn them off when you go to bed or leave the room.

Use and purchase heaters with an automatic shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.

Plug power cords directly into outlets and never into an extension cord.

Inspect for cracked or damaged, broken plugs or loose connections; replace before using.

Following these tips should make your holidays both safer and more worry free. For more information on these tips and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov or contact us at (417) 881-9018.

Sincerely,
Dennis Reynolds
Deputy Chief
Battlefield Fire Protection District