



November Issue

Volume 2 Issue 11

## Demolition of Condemned Houses

The demolition of approximately 600 condemned houses began on Monday, October 19, 2015. The first house was located at 1506 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. With the initial house completely taken down, there is a better understanding of what needs to take place and how. This pilot program has been over a year in the making and will be a prototype for other cities to utilize as the need presents itself. With the inmates of ACC performing the duties of the demolition

team, they will be learning a trade which will afford them the opportunity to better themselves upon their release. This program is geared toward reducing the rate of recidivism (returning to prison) and create a safer community by providing those who are being released with a job skill and a chance for a successful future. This “Fresh Start” program is grant funded and city inspired.



## Veterans Day Memorial Service



The City will hold a Veterans Day Memorial Service on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 10:00am.

The community is invited to gather at the Civic Center steps to honor our local veterans, past and present. The program will include Mayor Debe Hollingsworth, Rev. Jesse Turner, Pastor Gary Bell, Rev. Daniel Johnson, and Capt. David Leonard of the Salvation Army, Police Chief Jeff Hubanks and Col. Chadwick Bauld of the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Sergeant First Class Chris Phillips will deliver a brief personal testimony with regards to his tour in Iraq and our own Pine Bluff High School ROTC Color Guard will present the colors for this momentous occasion. If you are a military veteran, we would like you to attend our Veterans Day Program so your service to our country can be recognized.

**Thank you, to all our military veterans both near and far!**

### Inside this Issue:

- ◆ Mayor Hollingsworth Reports 2
- ◆ Salvation Army to Host Thanksgiving Dinner 2
- ◆ Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends 2
- ◆ Man’s Best Friend’s Laws of Property 3
- ◆ Fall Fire Safety Tips 3
- ◆ Fall Back Time Change Sunday 4
- ◆ Turkey Frying Safety 5 Tips
- ◆ Street Department Update 6
- ◆ Thanksgiving Note From the Mayor 6

## Mayor Hollingsworth Reports:



Daylight savings time is over and our long summer days are becoming cool Autumn nights. Just as the seasons change, so has the atmosphere in our community. The true definition of southern hospitality is beginning to return to the citizens of Pine Bluff. There have also been many positive remarks with regards to the recent progressive look and feel of our city. With our sights set on a cleaner, more family friendly community, we are taking great strides to ensure that our

plan will bring about long term results and not simply a short term fix. Our citizens need stability and with stability comes security. Allow the benevolence and hospitality that is stimulated during the holidays to become part of this city's permanent character instead of just a seasonal attribute. As the saying goes, "When the power of love becomes greater than the love of power, then our city will see peace."

*Mayor Debe Hollingsworth*

## Salvation Army to Host Thanksgiving Dinner

The Salvation Army will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Monday, November 9 thru Friday, November 13, 2015 from 11:00am to 3:00pm, or until the tickets have been distributed. This is a come and go event and tickets will be handed out on a first come, first served basis. The dinner will be held at 501 East 12th Avenue in Pine Bluff.

This is only one of the many programs the Salvation Army offers those who

are in need. They offer many other services to the disadvantaged and less fortunate. For a comprehensive list of services and programs offered, contact the Salvation Army at 870-534-0504.

The City of Pine Bluff gives thanks to the Salvation Army for their compassion and contribution to our community and its citizens. Many would go hungry or homeless without their much needed assistance.



## Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends Coming Nov. 7



The Pine Bluff Festival Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, welcomes visitors to the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Regional Park every year from the third Tuesday of November through the 31st of December, for the celebration of the "Enchanted Land of Lights & Legends." This display of lights, established in 1997, is made possible by your continued support of this project and the opportunity for expansion in years to come due to your generosity. This is Arkansas's largest drive-thru of holiday lights with 1.3 miles of more than 240 displays, many of which are animated.

For \$25, you can purchase a lighted Christmas Star that will be displayed along Beachfront Drive at the park "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a person or organization that you choose. An acknowledgement card will be sent in recognition of your generosity. Your individual or organization will receive recognition in the program that is distributed at the park, and their special name will be visible on our lighted billboard. Deadline to purchase Christmas Star is October 23. Stars will be displayed from November 17 - December 31.

## Man's Best Friend's 11 Laws of Property

1. If I like it, it's mine
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine
3. If I had it a while ago, it's mine
4. If I can take it from you, it's mine
5. If it's mine, it must never be yours
6. If it just looks like mine, it's mine
7. If I saw it first, it's mine
8. If you are playing with something else and laid down, it's mine
9. If I'm chewing on something, all the pieces are mine
10. If it used to be yours, get over it
11. If it's broken, it's yours



## Home Heating Tips from the Pine Bluff Fire Dept.

No matter what type of device you use to heat your home, making sure your heating devices and/or systems are in good working order is an important part of learning some fall fire safety tips. Many things can go wrong with heating equipment during the spring and summer months. Verify that everything you need to keep your home warm throughout fall and winter is in good working order before you experience the first cold snap of the season.

### Space Heater Safety Tips

- Make sure that any space heaters are surrounded by at least three feet of empty space.
- Never place clothing or any other objects on a space heater to dry.
- Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery.
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to Bed.
- Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters.



### Central Heating System Safety Tips

- Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor before using it, fall and spring.
- If you have a gas heater, make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.



### Fireplace and Wood Stove Safety Tips

- Get your chimney inspected each year to make sure it's safe.
- Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney every fall.
- Repair any cracks in your fireplace.
- Use fireplace screens to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace.
- Do not ever use gasoline to start a fire in the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that combustible materials are not stored within three feet of your fireplace.
- For natural gas fireplaces, get all connections and lines inspected before uses each season.

## **Fall Back: Safety Checklist for Time Change Sunday**

Time Change Sunday has arrived and the Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services would like to remind you of these things to do this time of year to keep your family safe.

**On Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 2:00am Daylight Savings Time began in most of the United States.**

Setting the clock back means it's time for a seasonal safety check!

Now that you've gone around the house setting clocks back, make time for this short safety checklist. It will see you into fall from a safe--and organized--home.

### **Change the clocks, change the batteries**

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors save lives ... if they're powered on by a fresh battery. Safety experts recommend replacing smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries twice a year--so celebrate Time Change Sunday with fresh batteries all around.

### **Replace light bulbs**

Chances are, you'll have stepladders out to reach smoke detectors and clocks, so double up on safety (and energy savings) by checking light bulbs and light fixtures.

Consider replacing conventional bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent or LCD bulbs. The U.S. Environmental Protection estimates that replacing standard bulbs with energy-efficient ones saves over \$30 in electricity costs over their lifetime.

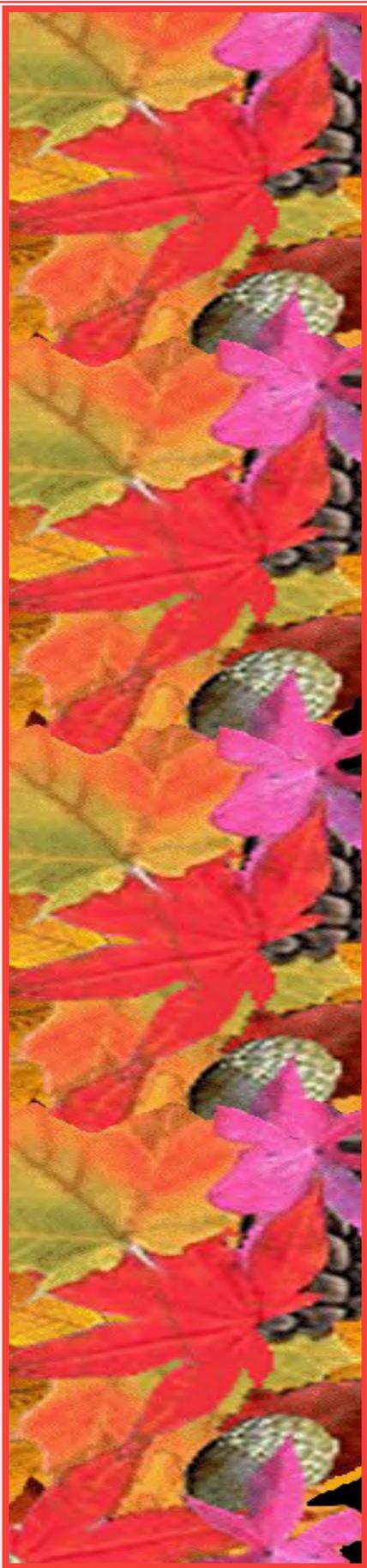
### **Review your family emergency plan**

If an emergency strikes, will your family know what to do?

Review your family's emergency plan, or create one for the first time. Hold a meeting with family members to explain what to do and where to go in case of an emergency.

Update phone numbers, addresses and contact information, and post an emergency information page near the phone.

Also as a reminder, if you reside in the city limits of Pine Bluff and you do not have a working smoke detector Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services will provide one for you at no cost by calling (870)730-2048, a time will be set and members of the Fire Department will come to your residence and install a smoke detector in your home, also Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services provides reflective, adhesive, numbers for your house if your home does not have a visible address. This service can help insure a more certain response in case you are in need of emergency services.



## Thanksgiving Turkey Frying Safety Tips

Unfortunately, Thanksgiving is a time of year when serious fires can occur. Thanksgiving Day tops the charts as one of the peak days for home cooking fires.

Cooking is the leading cause of fires and fire related injuries across the country. Deep fryer fires result in more than \$15 million in property damage each year in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Cooking fires are easily preventable. Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services offers these tips for safer cooking this holiday:



### When deep frying turkeys, there are number of things to remember:

- Only use an approved turkey fryer with four legs and a built-in thermostat so proper oil temperature can be maintained. Make sure the fryer cannot tip over, a major cause of most fires.
- Fry outdoors, away from buildings and other combustible items. Never use a fryer indoors. Keep children and pets away while frying.
- Follow instructions on what size turkey should be used, how it should be cooked and what type of oil to use.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and dry. Do not stuff the bird and don't forget to take out the bag of gizzards. Lower the turkey into the hot oil slowly.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Wear fry gloves; regular oven mittens may not be insulated enough.
- Splashing oil can cause a flash fire and serious burns, so be careful.

### Other holiday safety tips include:

- When cooking indoors using a natural gas or propane stove, make sure there is not a buildup of carbon monoxide in the home. The stove is a common source of carbon monoxide in the home, especially if you are cooking for several hours. Run any vents you have in the kitchen, especially the one over the stove. You should open windows/doors in the kitchen at least once each hour to allow fresh air to circulate into the kitchen.
- Make sure you have a properly operating smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector in the home.
- In the case of a stove fire, shut off the stove and cover the burning pan with a lid or use a fire extinguisher. Do not throw water, salt, flour or any other substance on the fire; these substances can cause the fire to flare up. Do not try to move a burning pan outside.
- If there is a fire inside the oven, shut off the oven and leave the door shut. Call 9-1-1 and report the fire and leave the home until firefighters arrive.
- If using candles for decorations, never leave burning candles unattended and keep combustible items away. .
- If you use a fireplace, make sure the damper is open and the chimney flue is clear to allow smoke and gases to escape properly. Discard ashes into a pail of water and let them soak for several hours before discarding. Do not discard ashes in the trash or store them in cardboard boxes or trash bags.
- When retiring for the evening, make a final inspection of your home and ensure that all appliances, especially the stove, are turned off. If you used outside appliances such as a barbecue or turkey fryer, make sure the gas is off and ashes are put in a pail of water.
- If smoking was permitted in your home, check all furniture for improperly discarded smoking material. Take all trash outside and keep it away from the house.



The Pulse of Pine Bluff is written and published through the Office of the Mayor, by Special Projects Coordinator, E. Kelley Bohlmann. If you have any questions or would like to place an article please call 870-730-2004, Fax 870-730-2174—Monday thru Friday from 8:00am till 5:00pm



**The Mayor's office and Street Dept. receives many calls for clogged ditches and city drains. Please remember to rake and bag your leaves as the streets are becoming cluttered and therefore, so will the ditches and drainage system. The City of Pine Bluff appreciates your cooperation in keeping our city drains flowing smoothly during the fall and winter months. All of us working together creates an unbeatable team through community awareness.**



## *Happy Thanksgiving to All*



Much has been accomplished within our city in the last three years. This progress is largely due to the cooperation of our wonderful citizens and the hard working employees of the City of Pine Bluff. Because of this recent upward trend in our community, I am thankful for each one of you who has gone the extra mile for the pursuit of a better Pine Bluff.

We are blessed to have a dedicated and committed staff to care for the needs of our great city. That being said.....thank you ! Thank you for your perseverance, your

understanding, your compliance to the changes that had to occur, and the endurance you have displayed during some very turbulent times.

This Thanksgiving be sure to let someone know how thankful you are for their efforts, regardless of how small they may be.

We are a blessed society and a blessed community and I am proud to call myself a citizen of Pine Bluff and a member of this growing municipal family.

*Mayor Debe Hollingsworth*