Winter is finally upon us! Rosenberg’s Emergency Management Team reminds residents to follow the four “P’s” of winter weather safety: People, Pets, Plants & Pipes!

**PEOPLE:** Keep your family warm & check on any elderly family or neighbors that may need extra blankets, help winterizing their homes or a warm place to stay. Dress in layers; gloves & hats will help prevent losing your body heat. Avoid outdoor activities if possible.

**PETS:** Dogs & cats get cold too. Bring pets indoors. If they can’t come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm. Keep adequate food & water available. Make sure water is fresh & not frozen.

**PLANTS:** Cover delicate plants to keep them warm at night. Bring potted plants inside or store in a garage near an interior wall to provide extra warmth & protection from the cold & wind.

**PIPES:** Wrap exposed pipes to prevent freezing & breaks. Disconnect outdoor hoses, then drain & store them in a protected area. Drip exposed faucets at a trickle to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen & bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing, but be sure to move any harmful cleaners & household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.

The American Red Cross also offers great reminders for those who might be using a space heater or a fireplace to keep warm this winter. **Remember the three feet rule.** If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface & keep anything flammable (things such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs) at least three feet away. **Use with supervision.** Turn off space heaters before leaving the room or going to bed. If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks or rolling logs. **Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day & night.** Your heating bill may be a little higher but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze or burst. **The kitchen is for cooking.** Never use a stove or oven to heat your home. **Use generators outside.** Never operate a generator inside the home, including in a garage. Don’t hook up a generator to the home’s wiring. The safest thing to do is connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.
DID YOU KNOW THAT PLAIN WRAPPING PAPER, TISSUE PAPER, GIFT BOXES & GREETING CARDS CAN ALL BE RECYCLED IN YOUR RECYCLE BIN? BOWS, GLITTERY ITEMS & RIBBONS SHOULD BE DISCARDED WITH YOUR REGULAR HOUSEHOLD WASTE.

TIP: SAVE YOUR GIFT BAGS & REUSE THEM NEXT YEAR!

Council Corner
City Council approved the 2020 Street Overlay Project & Sidewalk Repair Project Lists. 6.3 miles of 20 streets will be repaired as well as the sidewalks on Spruce, Greenwood & Redbud Drives.

Ordinance No. 2019-57 was passed amending the Code of Ordinances to include the alleys or unpaved streets as responsibility of the property owner to maintain in regards to the height of grass & weeds.

City Council approved Resolution No. R-2861 approving a tax abatement for Seatex, LLC & Resolution No. R-2862 approving a tax abatement for OCuSOFT, Inc. See back cover for details.

The November Image Committee Awards were presented to Layma Mendoza, Samantha Stinnett & Thomas & Mary Wilson. Pictured are L-R Jeremy Heath (Interim Director of Economic Development) Stinnett, Wilson, Mendoza, Image Committee Chairman Joyce Bartos & Mayor Benton.

City Council recognized the week of November 4th as Municipal Court Week. Pictured are: Officer Dailey, Court Administrator Lucilo Jimenez, Judge Ross, Court Clerk Janie Castillo, Mayor Benton & Court Clerk Jessenia Morin-Ruelas.

REMINDERS:
- Pick-Up Moved to Thursday, Dec. 26
- Pick-Up Moved to Thursday, Jan. 2
- Christmas - Dec. 25: No pick-up
- New Year's Day - Jan. 1: No pick-up

10 CITY CODES TO REMEMBER

1. No High Grass & Weeds (Vegetation must be less than 12 inches tall)
2. No Bandit or Off-Premise Signs Allowed (Including Garage Sale signs)
3. No Junk Vehicles (Must have a current plate or registration, not wrecked or dismantled & be operable)
4. No Working Without a Permit (Building Permits are required for most projects)
5. No Occupied Recreational Vehicles (No RV or camper may be occupied within City limits for more than 7 days)
6. Mobile Home Skirting (Skirting is required on Mobile Homes)
7. No Solicitation (Solicitation is prohibited within the City without a proper permit)
8. No Accumulations of Trash, Debris or Junk (No accumulation of refuse on property for more than 10 days unless not visible from public street)
9. No Graffiti (Graffiti must be removed by property owner within 10 days)
10. Exterior Maintenance (Homes must not be in disrepair; broken windows or down fences must be repaired within 10 days; Sewer issues must be addressed within 3 days)

Questions or need to report a concern? Call Citizen Relations at 832-595-3301.
At the November 5 City Council Meeting, the City entered into two tax abatement agreements with companies in the process of expanding within the City limits. City Council voted unanimously to approve a five-year, 50 percent abatement agreement with Seatex, LLC, & a seven-year, 70 percent abatement agreement with OCuSOFT, Inc.

In order to qualify for the abatement, Seatex’s certified appraised taxable value must increase by at least $2.5 million in Tax Year 2020. Only the increased value will qualify for the abatement. The company estimates its capital investment in building a new production facility for agricultural-based products will be about $6 million & its taxable inventory is projected to increase by about $4 million annually. Seatex currently employs about 100 people & is projected to create 10-15 new jobs with the expansion.

OCuSOFT’s value must increase by at least $3 million in Tax Year 2020 to qualify for the abatement. The multi-phase improvements are projected to cost more than $27 million in construction, $4 million in new equipment & taxable inventory is projected to increase by about $2.5 million annually. OCuSOFT currently employs more than 150 people, & by the end of the expansion is projected to create about 100 new jobs.