



CITY OF FRUITLAND

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MICHAEL J. PHILLIPS, Chief of Police
MICHAEL GIBBONS, Public Works Director
MARCUS R. HENDERSON, Code Enforcement
ANDREW C. MITCHELL JR., City Solicitor

June 16, 2017

Residents and Property Owners

During the June 13, 2017 meeting the City's 2017-2018 budget was approved. The following changes will take effect with the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017:

Real Estate Tax

The City Council approved a tax rate decrease from \$0.96 to \$0.9465 per \$100 of assessed value. The business tax and utility usage rates will remain the same for the upcoming fiscal year.

The City of Fruitland will again offer a Military Veteran's Tax Rebate for the tax year 2017-2018. You can find the details to receive this rebate on the City of Fruitland's website.

We anticipate the real estate tax bills to be in the mail by the middle of July 2017.

Utilities

The Council approved two changes to the utility billing late fee structure, which will become effective with the July 1, 2017 billing. The changes are as follows:

- 1) Any account not paid in full by the due date on the bill will incur a \$25.00 administrative fee.
 - a. This will be charged to all accounts which have an outstanding balance, including accounts that only have trash fees and/or water and sewer reserve fees.
 - b. Previously this fee was charged on the disconnect date.

- 2) The reconnect fee for non-payment by the disconnect date will now be \$50.00. Accounts must be paid in full before service is reconnected.
 - a. This fee was previously \$25.00.

These changes in the late fee structure are an attempt to limit the time and resources required by City employees associated with processing and maintaining delinquent accounts, as well as disconnecting and reconnecting services throughout the City.

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We offer multiple options for bill payment to give everyone a chance to pay their bill timely. In addition to mailing in your payment, using our drop box located at City Hall, paying by phone or in person, we now offer online payments. Information can be found on the City of Fruitland's website: www.cityoffruitland.com. Some of the benefits of online bill pay are as follows:

- 1) Bill notification when a new bill is ready to be paid;
- 2) The ability to set up recurring payments;
- 3) Due date reminders; and
- 4) The ability to pay with your bank account as well as with a credit card.

There is a 1.5% service charge on all online payments, regardless of the method used. We also allow partial payments so you can break up the total due into smaller, more manageable amounts per week or month.

Utility accounts will be billed according to the following schedule:

<u>Bill Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Service Disconnects will begin</u>
Jul 1, 2017	30 days from postmark	10-15 business days from due date
Oct 1, 2017	30 days from postmark	10-15 business days from due date
Jan 1, 2018	30 days from postmark	10-15 business days from due date
Apr 1, 2018	30 days from postmark	10-15 business days from due date

Interest (1%) and a \$25.00 Administrative fee will be added to any account not paid in full by the due date on the bill. Service disconnect dates are subject to change due to weather related events or holidays.

Sanitation

For your recycling needs, the city encourages you to take advantage of the Fruitland Convenience Center located five minutes from City Hall on Walnut Tree Road.

Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Department announces that they will soon begin an initiative that will focus on dilapidated, deteriorating and structurally unsound sheds, garages, out-buildings and accessory structures throughout the city. For further details and code violation descriptions concerning this initiative visit the city website.

The City of Fruitland values its residents and businesses, and encourages you to become involved in your local government and to support some of the many community groups working to enhance the quality of life in our city.

Thank you for choosing the City of Fruitland!

John Psota
City Manager