

## STAFF REPORT

DATE: 12/14/22

TO: City Council and City Manager

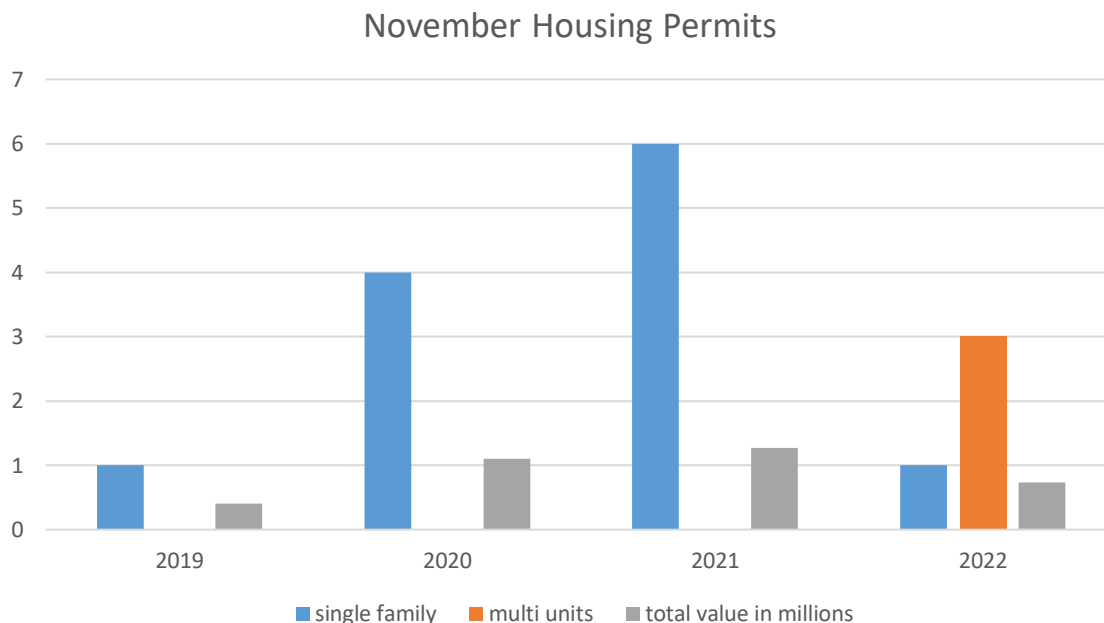
FROM: P&Z Department

RE: November Monthly report

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### Residential Construction update



**CARBON MONOXIDE.** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and toxic gas, which is predominantly produced by incomplete combustion of **carbon**-containing materials.

Tailgating with generators or vehicles running, household gas or fuel appliances the risks related to carbon monoxide exposure increase during months people are trying to stay warm. Low level exposure can impact your health over a period of time without setting off detectors.

[www.CDC.Gov Prevention Guidelines:](https://www.cdc.gov/prevention/guidelines/)

#### You Can Prevent Carbon Monoxide Exposure

- \* DO have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- \* DO install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911.
- \* DO seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseous.
- \* DON'T use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.

- \* DON'T run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- \* DON'T burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- \* DON'T heat your house with a gas oven.
- \* DON'T use a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent. Use an extension cord that is more than 20 feet long to keep the generator at a safe distance.

## Carbon Monoxide Hazards from Small Gasoline Powered Engines

Many people using gasoline-powered tools such as high-pressure washers, concrete cutting saws (walk-behind/hand-held), power trowels, floor buffers, welders, pumps, compressors, and generators in buildings or semi enclosed spaces have been poisoned by carbon monoxide (CO). CO can rapidly accumulate (even in areas that appear to be well ventilated) and build up to dangerous or fatal concentrations within minutes.

Workplace safety by NIOSH The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Examples of such poisonings include the following:

- A farm owner died of CO poisoning while using an 11-horsepower, gasoline-powered pressure washer to clean his barn. He had worked about 30 minutes before being overcome.
- A municipal employee at an indoor water treatment plant lost consciousness while trying to exit from a 59,000-cubic-foot room where he had been working with an 8-horse-power, gasoline-powered pump. Doors adjacent to the work area were open while he worked. His hospital diagnosis was CO poisoning.
- Five workers were treated for CO poisoning after using two 8 horse-power, gasoline-powered, pressure washers in a poorly ventilated underground parking garage.
- A plumber used a gasoline-powered concrete saw in a basement with open doors and windows and a cooling fan. He experienced a severe headache and dizziness and began to act in a paranoid manner. His symptoms were related to CO poisoning.

These examples show a range of effects caused by CO poisoning in a variety of work settings with exposures that occurred over different time periods and with different types of ventilation. Workers in areas with closed doors and windows were incapacitated within minutes. Opening doors and windows or operating fans does NOT guarantee safety. CO is a dangerous poison. Operating gasoline-powered engines and tools indoors is RISKY BUSINESS.

## **Violation**

Gas valve is shut off on this below furnace but is a good example of improper exhaust connection that would allow carbon monoxide exhaust to fill the room. The unit should be removed, or the flue should be fixed to prevent an accident.



**Still laying sod first part of  
December**

