

Utility Poles and Signs

The warmer months are just around the corner and the outdoor activities, garage sales, and other events are being planned. Too often the announcements for these events are being nailed, stapled, taped, or tied to utility poles and traffic control signs. The City ordinance, section 11-606, is very clear that such posting is prohibited.

Although a nail, staple, or tack on a utility pole may seem minor, the repeated placement poses the possible injury to a utility worker or damage to their safety equipment. Utility workers still climb poles using specialized equipment designed to protect them from injury. A glove, boot, or protective arm sleeve that snags on a nail or other item could result in damaging the equipment designed to protect the worker. In addition to the personal safety is the driver safety associated with signs, placards, and posters that could accumulate on a pole. Most of these items are put on poles at intersections and serve to distract the driver when they should be focused on vehicle operation. The utility company takes a proactive stance on these postings and quickly removes them as they are observed.

It is not uncommon for postings, flyers, and advertisements to also get affixed to the traffic control signs in the City. The traffic control signs are placed at locations to advise and warn drivers of road conditions and regulations. The poles and sign surfaces are not to have flyers or posters attached to them. City employees upon noticing such postings will remove them. The advertising of your event is important, but the utility poles and the City signs are not the place to post them. As stated, this is a violation of the City ordinance and is punishable by a fine and costs up to \$165. Any questions about this or other activities may be directed to Chief Paul Blackwell at (931) 455-0530 or pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov .