

UPDATES FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Police:

Winter is here! It's that time of the year to remind all residents of the City about snow removal ordinances. November 1st to April 1st parking restrictions will be enforced. This is important because snow removal is a challenge for the Department of Public Works to begin with and it's an even bigger challenge when we leave our cars parked on streets making it virtually impossible for the whole snow removal process to effectively take place.

Please be aware when it snows the city plow trucks will be working. Vehicles left on the street will be subject to a municipal citation and removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense.

Zoning: Land Use:

A reminder to property owners thinking about doing improvements to their lots. The first step in any project is to know where your property lines are located. Ordinances exist for many improvements such as garages, sheds, fences, retaining walls, storm water drainage, tree planting, driveways, and parking lots. All of these ordinances include specific requirements of where and how improvements can be made so you know a quality, long lasting and trouble free improvement will be your end result. The best way to accomplish this is with accurate property information. It is required that you submit survey information with permit applications with all dimensions shown relating to the location and size of the **lot** based on **actual survey**. An actual survey will include replacing missing monuments and "pins". The **lot** and the **location** of the improvement **shall be staked out** when an application is submitted for review. Following these procedures will benefit your property now and in the future.

Public Works:

As this is written the city crew is sanding streets after our first snow event of the season. Please remember that this is the time of year when parking is not allowed on the streets or terraces. Hopefully we will have a "normal" winter season.

By the end of November we will have concluded a portion of the copper level testing in the product coming into the wastewater treatment facility. This testing is required by the DNR to be incorporated into our treatment process plan. We currently have higher levels of copper arriving at the treatment facility which the DNR mandates must be lowered and the testing we are conducting will help us determine sources of the copper. If you use a root killer in your sanitary sewer service line, please use products that do **not** include copper sulfate as that is one source we need to eliminate.



Utility Billing Department:

If you own a property in the City of Prescott which you rent out and have the utility bill sent in the name of the tenant. Beginning in 2015 state laws require you also get a copy of the utility bill as you are ultimately responsible for the utility bill if it is not paid by your tenant. We want to make sure you receive the copy and don't get any surprises at tax time when the bill was rolled to your real estate tax. Please contact city hall at 715-262-5544 or stop in and give us the information.

City Hall:

Check out the new city website at prescottwi.org. The website offers a number of new features. Please let us know if there is something you would like to see on the site and we will work to get it there for you.



Don't forget it is time to renew your dog, cat and chicken/duck licenses. You need to bring in your rabies certificate for your dog or cat. License renewal fees for dog or cat is \$15.00 if spayed or neutered or \$18.00 if not. Chicken/duck license is \$15.00 for 6 either chicken or duck or combination up to 6.



Golf carts need to be renewed on an annual basis. Cost is \$25 and needs to be renewed with the Police Department.



Boat Launch stickers for 2015 will be available at city hall. \$35 for City of Prescott resident or \$50 for non-resident. **Boat launch stickers make a great holiday gift.**

Tax payments can be made at city hall. We remain open until 5:00 p.m. on December 31st if you want to get that tax credit for 2014. Normal office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Library:

During the month of November, your Prescott Public Library offered their annual Food for Fines program to all library patrons. We collected more than 30 pounds of food for the area Food Shelf by accepting non-perishable food items in exchange for paying down library fines. Overdue fines were reduced by \$1.00 per donation.

Are you looking for a new job? Do you need to brush up your resume or on-line job searching skills? The Job Center of Wisconsin offers free assistance for all. Every second Monday of the month from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. a Job Center counselor is here at your library or you may schedule an appointment with her by calling 715-821-0053. There are also many helpful resources available at the MORE online catalog. Learning Express Library features adult learning skills, a career center, assistance with occupational exams, computer skills training, GED prep tests and U.S. citizenship exams. Becky Arenivar our library Programming Specialist, also offers individualized computer assistance by appointment. Call to inquire at 715-262-5555.

Open hours are changing at your Prescott Public Library beginning January 2, 2015. Every Monday –Thursday we will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fridays schedule will be 10:00-6:00 and Saturday hours will be 10:00 – 2:00. Thank your Library Board of Trustees for supporting additional staff hours.

City of Prescott Partners with River Falls to provide Emergency Medical Services

The Prescott Area Fire and EMS Association announced on October 30, 2014 its plan to consolidate the Prescott Ambulance Service with River Falls Emergency Medical Service (EMS) beginning January 1, 2015.

Under its consolidation with River Falls, River Falls EMS will assume the ambulance license, upgrade the license to critical care paramedic and perform all

operational duties and be accountable to the Prescott Fire and EMS Association.

To ensure continuity of service, River Falls will hire Prescott EMS employees who wish to work for River Falls EMS. The Emergency Medical Services will continue to operate out of the existing Prescott Facility, with additional support coming from River Falls.

Finance:

2015 City of Prescott Budget

At the Council meeting on Monday, November 24th the proposed 2015 budget was approved. The City's tax levy was increased only by the increase in net new construction; 0.4%. Some of the new things included in the 2015 General Fund budget are; Leadership Training for several of the City's department heads, increasing a part-time Public Works position to full-time, and an additional part-time police officer shift for Friday & Saturday nights. The Capital Projects budget will include; a new Police vehicle and a truck for Public Works, upgrading the City's accounting, utility and record management software from the 1998 version, a new utility tractor, a zero-turn mower and the replacement of the 25 year old boiler system at the City Hall & Library building. Court St. curb & gutter, water & sewer mains and storm water project will also be constructed in 2015 paid for by debt issuance. The Water Department is planning to purchase a valve exerciser and is looking at replacing all water meters in the City which should greatly improve accuracy and efficiency of the meter reading process and will get the City's meters in compliance with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. The Sewer Department is looking at modifications to the South Lift Station in 2015. If you have any questions regarding the 2015 budget, please contact City Hall.

Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center at Freedom Park.

Open weekends only December and January. Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. Sundays from 12 pm to 5 pm. Volunteers wanted! Share your talents and pride for your community by volunteering at the GRRVLC. Meet people from the community and around the country and world. Greeters, gardeners and program volunteers wanted for 2015. All training provided. Contact Jessica Bierbrauer at jessica@freedomparkwi.org for details or to begin volunteering. Call 715-262-0104 or visit www.freedomparkwi.org for all the latest program and upcoming event information.