

Winter is almost here! It's that time of the year to remind all resident 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. City ordinances do not allow for the blowing of snow into the street. Citations can be issues.

2015 Taxes

Tis the season for property taxes and rolling out the 2016 budget. Several people are asking how much their taxes are going up and there is a lot of mis-information circulating as well. Hopefully this will clear things up a bit... After five or six budget hearing meetings where the Council discussed the 2016 budget and the needs of the City in great detail, the final levy and 2016 budget for the City of Prescott was approved on Monday night. The City Council voted to increase the City's budget by 4.95%. After all the levies submitted by each jurisdiction are run through a series of calculations having to do with the TIF's, the equalized value and the assessed value we finally reach the mill rate. The total mill rate net of the school tax levy credit is going up by \$0.82 per \$1000 of assessed value, 3.13% over last year or \$82 per \$100,000 in assessed value. This increase includes the School, County, City, State and CVTC levies. The City's portion of the increase will include the wages and benefits of hiring

of an additional full-time Police Officer. To meet the needs of the community and the federal guidelines for law enforcement agencies, the City should have 1 full-time officer for every 500 in population, plus the Chief. Prescott is currently below this by 1 to 2 full-time officers. The levy will also pay for part of the cost of a new 2-ton pick-up with salt spreader for Public Works. The current 1-ton pick-up is 17 years old and is the most used piece of equipment in the fleet. The addition of the 2-ton will allow work to be done more efficiently and economically. The levy will also be used towards an addition to the Public Works garage. The new addition will house four vehicles or pieces of equipment which are currently parked outside. If you have questions about the budget or taxes, please contact City Hall at 715-262-5544.



Holiday Gift Drive



This year the City of Prescott is partnering with the Prescott Food Shelf on making the Holidays a little brighter for the families in need in the Prescott Area. The Prescott Food Shelf is currently serving around 170 families in the area. City Hall will be accepting unwrapped toys and essentials for girls and boys from toddler to teen, as well as gift cards for gas and food. Gifts will then be brought to the Prescott Food Shelf for distribution to registered families. If you wish to participate, please drop gifts off to City Hall during normal business hours: Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm. After 5:00 they can be dropped off at the Library until 8pm or Saturday 10-2. Gifts will be gladly accepted through December 14th. For information on how to be a recipient of the donated gifts, please contact Pete French at the Prescott Food Shelf; 715-262-4143. Happy Holidays to all!

Phosphorus

Excessive nitrogen and phosphorus that washes into water bodies are often the direct result of human activities. Fertilizers, yard and pet waste and certain types of soaps and detergents contain nitrogen and phosphorus, and can contribute to nutrient pollution if not properly used or disposed of. The amount of hard surfaces and type of landscaping can also increase the run off of nitrogen and phosphorus in wet weather.

Our Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is responsible for treating large quantities of waste. But the facility was only designed to treat up to certain levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Since the WWTF was built, new state requirements has lowered the acceptable discharge levels of phosphorus and the WWTF may not be able to treat the waste as required without substantial investments. We all need to help by limiting the amount of phosphorus entering the sanitary sewer system.

Please be aware of these nutrient levels in the products that you use and choose. The usual forms of phosphorus found in cleaners are orthophosphates and polyphosphates. Your help will make our facility last longer before an expensive upgrade would be needed.

Flushable wipes.

Yes they are flushable in that the sewer pipe will carry them away. However, the flushable wipes are very detrimental to the operation of the WWTF as well as any other items that are not biological wastes. Please do not flush anything other than toilet paper and biological wastes into the sanitary sewer system!

Meters / Cross Connection Surveys / Electrical Service Grounding / House Numbers

All of the above come together for the following points. The advertisement for bids for the meter installation and cross connection surveys should be published this month. The contractor will not be local and will rely heavily on being able to read house

numbers to schedule and perform their work. Please make sure you house numbers are installed and in the correct location on your building. Fire and EMS will appreciate it too.

Make sure your electrical service is grounded correctly before and after your water meter. Have an electrician correct any services not grounded per city standards. The Public Service Commission says that meters shall be installed per city standards also. "Meters shall be installed to provide between 6 and 12 inches from the wall and between 18 and 36 inches from the finished floor. The water meter shall have full accessibility with a clear space of three feet in all directions, except as noted in the previous sentence".

Do not enclose water meters in cabinets, walls or block with any appliances or other obstructions. Make sure the valve ahead of your meter is functioning, have a plumber replace if necessary.

If all of the above points are addressed by every building owner in Prescott the price will be less expensive for the work. Points above not addressed by building owners will result in delays, added expense and possible water service termination until improvements to meet current standards are met.

We Welcome Aaron Kiefer as our new Code Enforcement Officer. Aaron will be working with the Police Department on parking issues and Public Works on zoning issues. You can reach Aaron at codeenforce@prescottcity.org or leave a message for him at city hall at 715-262-5544.

We Welcome Tom Lytle as our new Fire Chief. Tom has served for many years on the Fire Department and most recently as the Assistant Fire Chief. You can reach Tom at firechief@prescottcity.org or leave a message for him at the fire hall at 715-262-5733.