

February 2018

NOTES FOR THE MAYOR

It has been a long cold winter however spring is just around the corner. I hope you had a good winter and survived the cold and flu season. I would like to thank all the residents who kept their city sidewalks shoveled and provided a safe path for walkers in the city.

There are three council seats on the spring ballot. They are Mayor, Alderperson for Wards 5 & 6, and Alderperson at large. If you are interested in running for one of the seats, please contact city hall to find out how you can run as a write in candidate.

The city is always looking for citizens that would be willing to serve on City Committees and Commissions. If you would be interested in any of the committees or commissions listed below, please contact city hall and you will be considered when openings occur.

Cable Commission, Library Board, Cable Commission, Police Commission, Fire & EMS Association, Prescott representative to the Pierce County Economic Development Corporation, Board of Appeals, Prescott Industrial & Economic Committee, Prescott Housing Authority, Prescott Planning Commission.

If you need to contact me, email me at dhovel@prescottcity.org or call me at 715-262-3615.

Thank you for your support. Have an awesome day.

David B. Hovel, Mayor

**TREE PLANTING IN TERRACE AREA.**

The "Terrace Area" aka, boulevard, is the area of the street Right of Way that is between the paved portion of the street and your property line. In most cases your front yard does not extend to the paved area or to a curb. This area needs to be controlled to allow for construction/maintenance activities, future expansion and a placement area for snow removal, as a few examples. Another consideration for trees is whether or not the root system or branches will cause damage to infrastructure when as the tree grows larger.

Trees are allowed to be planted in the terrace area **IF** the species, size, spacing and placement in regards to utilities, sidewalks and curb meet the Prescott Master Park Plan and Municipal Code(s).

Please check with City Hall before you plant trees in the terrace areas and we will help with the information you need. If you have planted a tree that does not meet requirements, please move or remove the tree. Tree Planting Permits are required in Prescott. The permit is no-charge, but it helps to "get it right the first time" and avoid harmful situations in the future.

Terrace areas are to be "maintained as lawn". As a rule of thumb, lawn grasses are the only other allowances for placement in terrace areas.

"FLUSHABLE" WIPES

Although wipes are capable of being flushed down a toilet, PLEASE DON'T. The wipes cause problems with the sanitary sewer system. There a lawsuits pending in many states to force manufactures from advertising wipes as flushable. Please deposit all wipes in garbage containers for disposal.

Municipal Code 470-4(F) (4) states:

Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewer:

(4) Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in public sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the wastewater treatment works, such as, but not limited to, flushable wipes, feminine hygiene products or packaging, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshing, entrails, and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

VOLUNTEERS

Intermediate school volunteers in "Destination Imagination" will be planting trees in the St. Croix Bluffs Park this spring as part of their program. In honor of Arbor Day 2018 the kids will be planting the trees on April 28th. Stop by and thank them!

CROSS CONNECTION EDUCATION

As part of the 2016 water meter change-out project Prescott also satisfied EPA/DNR requirements to survey properties for potential cross connection contamination situations. This is an on-going process and one of the other requirements is to stay in contact with property owners because plumbing changes in buildings. Other community education materials will be sent as time goes on, but if anyone has any questions about cross connection please call Public Works at City Hall.

NOTICE, WARNING OR CITATION. WHICH IS IT?

Thank you to all residents and business owners with the cooperation you are giving to Prescott by helping with compliance with municipal ordinances. We welcome your phone calls asking about the procedures that are being implemented. The many calls that have been received thanking staff and Council members for the ordinance work being done is appreciated. There is a lot of time and effort taken to give notices and warnings to help with compliance, citations are a last resort. Please take the time to read anything you get from Code Enforcement, most times it is not a citation.



NEWS FROM THE PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Prescott Public Library provides materials, resources and programs for all age groups to meet the informational, entertainment and educational needs of Prescott residents. As we all get ready to hunker down for winter weather, don't forget to stock up on books, movies, audiobooks and magazines to help you while away the indoor hours. There is a lot to do at the library for all ages!

Infant/Toddler and **Preschool Storytime** will be the **FIRST** Monday of each month at 10:30am with playtime afterwards. Preschool Storytime continues on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 and Friday mornings at 10:30 for stories, songs and activities that encourage a love of books and reading and promote brain development in young children.

The library provides resources to families and children to help bring the building blocks of literacy into their busy lives. Our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program supports daily reading aloud as the single most important activity caregivers can do to help their children be ready to read in Kindergarten. Children from birth to age 5 are eligible to join. You receive a free book to keep when you register your child, rewards to motivate your child along the way and tips to help you make reading aloud a daily habit. For children who are learning to read, the Early Reader section holds books that match their reading skills.

Prescott Public Library has also added a **LEGO** building club, Teen Book Club, Teen Advisory Board and many more fun children's activities. The library is not just a place for children to go and have fun and learn! Prescott Public Library has also added Adult Yoga, afternoon Adult Coloring (2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month 2pm), Knot Just Knitting Club and other informational seminars. Don't forget! Come and enjoy our community puzzle table in the warmth of the library. Every piece helps!

Starting this spring we will be hosting **MOVIE NIGHTS**. Please check our website and Facebook page for movie titles and times.

As part of the MORE consortium, you have access to over 1 million items that you can find and request at <http://www.more.lib.wi.us/>. If the blizzard arrives before you can get to the library, you can find e-books and digital audiobooks to download from the Wisconsin Digital Library - <https://wplc.overdrive.com/>. Just log in using your Prescott library card and start browsing.

There are many ways for you to connect with your hometown library. Find details on the library's services, programs and more on our website at www.prescottpubliclibrary.org.

Like us on Facebook to see what's going on at the library now (<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottLibraryWisconsin/>). Questions? Call the library at 715-262-5555. Walk in the library door at 800 Borner St. North in the City Hall building and we'll greet you with a smile.

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF ROB FUNK

"Recently I sat down with Justin Thesee of These Marketing about the find IT! Prescott Phone app that he has designed. For those of you who do not know what find IT! Prescott is, I highly encourage you to search for it on your Google PlayStore or Apple App Store and download it. On the app you will find all things Prescott, including current events, business deals, contact information, sporting events, classifieds, etc.

As a resident in the City, this puts you in the know. In addition, this is a great app to refer to our City visitors to help familiarize them of all the great things available in our City.

Justin also took the time to interview me for the find IT! Prescott site, and he graciously allowed me to share his interview and my responses for the City website." Here are a few examples from the interview.

In your time with the PPD, what have been the most noticeable changes you have seen within the Prescott community?

The Community improvements as a whole, the housing that has been added and now industry. When I first started, Freedom Park was merely an open space with path to the bluff's edge. Now it is a great Community Park, Tourism stop, with real curb appeal to spend time outdoors to take in the view or hold a summer picnic. Freedom Park hosted our family reunion 2 summers ago and it was a great venue. The housing developments have helped the City **grow and bring residents that are attracted to our great little City**. Now with added industry, the City of Prescott is on the map for future growth.

As interim Chief, you have done an excellent job! If you retain this role, what will be your goals for the department in 2018 - 2019?

Thank you so much! Whether I retain the role or not there will be goals that I have for the department. We are in the middle of training season for our officers. I want their continued education to have a positive impact for the City and to assist in their personal development as Police Officers. Plans to finalize our Body Cam initiative is near. We are writing policy and will have our officers trained on their use. I gave my report to City Council and announced my intentions to review and update our Policy Manual, and Job descriptions. A few specific items of updated Policy are already in the draft and rewrite stage. We will hopefully be able to speed that process by using information we learn from the Department wide Assessment the City Council recently approved. A complete Inventory of all Police Department equipment is also currently being done. We are starting with the larger capital items and eventually will be counting all small items as well. We have to know where we are in order to know where we are going.

New staff members are currently in Field training. Employee Performance evaluations are also something I want to add back to our Department. These will be invaluable tools for employees to 'Know thyself' from all perspectives and work to improve. The culture of the Department is moving in a positive direction and my goal is to keep this on track. We are moving from a "competing with each other" to a "competing with yourself" outlook. Officers expectations are being elevated and they are expected to be a better person and officer than they were yesterday. In addition, we

February 2018

are fostering a culture of cooperation on duties as well. I will continue to lead here.

I would like to see a recruitment plan formulated for both of our Explorer Group and future Part time and full time officers. This is currently in early planning stages.

We are at a stage the Community will see the natural extension of this leadership. As we extend outward into Community Cooperation. This will be the natural progression of the current proactive leadership that is taking place. We are already seeing positive results with interdepartmental cooperation that may have been a struggle in the past.

Finally, my biggest goal for 2018, 2019 is to make sure the department is ready to serve above and beyond their call of duty and to reaffirm the message that we are here to faithfully serve and protect the City of Prescott with Integrity and Honor.



CITY HALL REMODEL

The City Hall lobby, break room and Council chambers are undergoing a remodel project. Included in the project is new paint, flooring, cabinetry, furnishings and signage. You will also see a strong presence of Prescott throughout the building with custom artwork featuring the two rivers coming together and historical photos of the City. The City is working with Prescott native, Natasha Most of Barefoot Interiors for design services and Dallas Eggers on the historical photos. The project is being funded through reserve funds within the General Fund and is expected to be completed in March so stop by and have a look!



Prescott's "TOP TEN"

Ways to improve the Health, Safety and Beauty of our community...

#1. Required Maintenance: City Code Requires all structures, landscaping, and fences be maintained so as to not to be unsightly or present health and safety conditions to the adjoining areas.

#2. Building plan reviews and permits are required for most interior home improvement projects, including mechanical/plumbing equipment installations, basement finishing, construction and placement of decks, sheds, garages, driveways and room additions.

#3. Accessory Structure Size and Setback requirements: Depending on the zoning of your property, any accessory structure on the premises must meet criteria regarding how many structures can be placed on the property, structure size and placement on the property.

#4. Exterior Storage: Unlicensed and inoperable vehicles, equipment machinery, unused household goods and most other objects and materials must be stored out of public view from neighboring properties and roadways.

#5. Vehicle Parking: No parking or leave standing an automobile, truck, tractor, trailer or vehicle of any description on any public streets or public parking lots for a period of 48 or more consecutive hours in the same location at any time except where more restrictive parking limits are established. Municipal Code states no more three (3) vehicles may be parked outside of an enclosed structure on a single property in the front yard.

#6. Vehicle Storage on unimproved Surfaces: City code requires off street parking of vehicles, boats, trailers and recreational vehicles be on an improved parking surface which meets construction and property line setback guidelines. Bring your plans to City Hall for Public works department review and permitting.

#7. Debris and Waste Disposal: Garbage, yard waste, construction/demolition waste and all other refuse shall be kept in approved containers and out of the public view from neighboring properties and roadways until scheduled pick up.

#8. Grass and Weeds: Certain times of the year grass and weeds can grow very quickly. City Code states grass and weeds cannot reach a height greater than eight (8) inches.

#9. No signs should be placed in public right of ways. This includes garage sale signs especially along the Highways.

#10. Work together. Attend Council and Committee meetings. The Mayor and Council are here to represent you the residents. They need to hear if there is an issue which needs to be addressed and are always open to ideas.



**GENERAL SPRING ELECTION
APRIL 3, 2018
POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM TO 8:00 PM
CITY HALL**

