

May 2019



Notes from the Mayor

Happy spring everyone, though it hasn't felt like spring much lately. We definitely had some water runoff issue this year. The city crew does it's best to keep the storm sewer catch basins in the curbs clear of debris but they can use your help. Please consider shoveling/blowing the snow away from the catch basin during the winter months and clearing away the leaves and debris from the catch basin throughout the rest of the year. Your help will prevent storm water backups and flooding.

Please note Dennis Eaton's article about grass in the street and the affects it has on storm sewers and the rivers.

Also due to our wet weather, several retaining walls have failed including the privately owned one below Peacock Ridge development, Wisconsin DOT one below Philanders, one along the Cherry Street hill and the concrete wall by the courtesy dock. The city is working with all parties to get these issues fixed.

Due to high water the boat launch has been closed and opened and we continue to monitor it and open or close it as the river dictates. Safety is one of the issues the city uses to determine when to close or open, which includes safety of the user and can the boat be safely launched without potential damage.

As mentioned above, not only did the retaining wall collapse near the courtesy dock, but the stairs, ramp and dock needs some work to ensure user safety. It will be closed until we can make repairs and install a new ramp. Due to the high water and limited access because of the retaining wall failure, the dock may not be open until July. We will make every effort to open it as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions please call me at 715-262-3615.

Have a great spring and summer.

David Hovel, Mayor

Grass Clipping And Leaves In Street Gutters Dennis Eaton, Water & Wastewater Superintendent

We know there has been a lot of discussion about why there is an ordinance about not putting grass clippings and leaves in the street gutters and let the stormwater carry them away.

The reason for the ordinances are because we have to show the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) we are making attempt at reducing the amount of phosphorous and other nutrients from entering our waterways.

We have limits as to how much phosphorous and other nutrients that can enter the river from the wastewater treatment plant. The DNR considers the wastewater treatment plant as a point source contributor of phosphorous. Stormwater and agriculture runoff is considered as non-point source phosphorous contributors and have no limits because it would be hard to enforce.

We know the heavy rain in the middle of April contributed more phosphorous to the waterways from stormwater and agriculture runoff than the wastewater plant will probably contribute in the next thirty years. The DNR can control the amount of phosphorous the wastewater plant is contributing

but they have asked and provided guidance to reduce the non-point source phosphorous in every way we can.

The city has already had to ask for a variance for our phosphorous levels. We were granted the variance for this permit period with the DNR but if we hadn't been we would be looking at a \$6 million upgrade to the treatment plant just for phosphorous.

We hope this shed a little light on the subject. We all need to be good stewards of what we have been given and to help the future generations enjoy the thing we have left. We also need to work with each other with better decorum when relating to this matter.



Compost Site Open

Compost site is open Monday and Wednesday 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am to noon. Remember, branches 6" in diameter or less (no root balls of any kind), leaves (not the bags you use for transport, even biodegradable bags), garden cuttings and organic kitchen waste are the ONLY items that will be accepted for drop off. The compost site is located at W12000 620th Avenue. From the east side city limits (Hwy 10) go 1.5 miles east. Turn left (north) on the 620th Ave and go approximately 0.8 miles to the compost driveway on the left (north) side of the road.

PROPOSED DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

When the city purchased the properties on Dakota Street the original discussion was for putting in parking. The cost of a public ramp adds up quickly to a very expensive project which, since it would be city-owned, would not generate tax revenues for the City.

Since purchasing the lots, committees of the City Council have been discussing a more multi-use function for the properties through which the City might generate tax revenue in addition to providing parking. With only two lots such a plan didn't look promising. But looking at properties that are adjacent to these properties to the north and west toward Lake Street seemed to have more promise.

Over the last several years, and concurrent with the purchase of the two lots, the City has been in discussions with various developers who have an interest in developing a few of the properties in this area — including the old Steamboat Inn property.

The City is now partnering with private business and property owners in the downtown area to write a **Request for Proposal** for a development project that would include public parking, retail and housing (affordable housing included in the mix). We are all hoping that a larger development project will attract the financial backing needed to continue to support growth in Prescott's downtown in a responsible manner. We thought combining in a private/public

cooperative effort might make a larger project more attractive to investors/developers.

Here's the City's timeline:

- Cedar Corporation, the City's engineering firm, is currently working on the **Request for Proposal**.
- The City Council will approve that Request before it is sent out to potential developers. (Of course, our private business and property owners will also approve their participation in this proposal request.)
- The **Request for Proposal** will be sent to developers in the Twin Cities, Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago areas.
- The request will be out for 60 - 90 days.
- The City and the existing property owners will review the requests to determine which of the submissions fits best for the City of Prescott.
- If none of the proposals meet our partners and the City's needs, then none of them will be chosen.

As far as why housing (affordable and otherwise) would be included in the development, downtown housing exists now and is a comfortable mix of rentals, owner-occupied and retail properties. The type of housing in this development would remain mixed; affordable housing would be one of the types included in the overall mix of the housing available through this project.

Utility Billing

The city is going to be making changes on the dates when utility bills will be sent out and also due. In order to do this there will be a billing in August 2019 for a 3 month billing period and then a billing will be done in December 2019 due January 31, 2020 which will be a 4 month billing period. Starting in 2020 the billing quarters will be March, June, September and December. Starting in 2020 payment will be due 20 days after the bill is issued. Look for information with this bill on how you can receive electronic bills and also set up automatic payment



Recycling Preparation Guidelines

Please take a little extra time when preparing your recycling. Below are a few preparation guidelines for help:

- Do not use plastic bags, items should be placed in the container "loose".
- Large cardboard should be flattened and folded or cut into pieces not larger than 2 by 2 feet in size and placed next to or underneath the recycling bin.
- All recycling must be placed curbside for collection on the same day as your garbage service.
- Labels do not need to be removed.
- Rinse containers to produce less than 5% food debris.
- Keep caps on bottles, jars, and other containers.

Non-Recyclable Items

- Aerosol cans
- Bathroom wastepaper
- Batteries
- Ceramics
- Christmas wrapping paper
- Dishes
- Food-contaminated packaging

- Gasoline containers
- Hazardous waste containers
- Mirrors
- Packaging material
- Paint cans
- Paper and plastic cups
- Plastic bags
- Plate or window glass
- Pottery
- Shredded paper
- **Note:** Food-contaminated packaging is defined as items that cannot be cleaned to 5% food debris, i.e., pizza boxes

Prescott Public Library

Summer Reading Program: June 1st – July 26th



This summer we explore the galaxy with activities, events and reading/raffle incentives to encourage kids and families to read, learn something new and be active.

Registration starts June 1st. When you register, you'll get a starter kit with everything you need to participate and earn reading rewards. All ages welcome!

Programs to watch for this summer:

- Spaceport Sheboygan: Living and Working in Space presentation (all ages)
- The LEGO Guy (space theme): Curtis Mork (all ages)
- Traveling Lantern Theatre Company presents: *My Mother the Astronaut* (all ages)
- Pint Size Polkas (all ages)
- *Eyes on the Skies: The Current Night Sky, What to Watch for, How to Observe It:* Presented James Lattis from UW-Madison (ages 14+)
- Drift less Stargazing: Giant Steps: John Heasley, experienced amateur Astronomer (ages 16+)
- Family craft nights
- STEM activities
- Teen Trivia Night
- Planting Activity
- Book and Benches/Storytime at Freedom Park

Continuing library programs:

- Storytime
- Tail Wagging Tutors
- LEGO Club
- Teen Advisory Board (TAB)
- Movie Mondays
- Beginning Yoga
- Adult coloring

For more information about the summer reading program, summer events or continuing programs, give us call at 715-262-5555 or check out our website

<https://prescottpubliclibrary.org/> or Facebook page facebook.com/PrescottLibraryWisconsin/



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