

November 2016

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

I would like to wish all residents a Happy Holiday Season. Thank you for your support and making Prescott the wonderful community that it is.

I would also like to take time to thank Jayne Brand, Vanessa Norby, the city department heads, and the City Council for doing a great job on the city's 2017 budget.

All department heads were asked to submit a 0% increase budget and they accomplished that. The Council worked thru the budget and made good decisions on capital projects and purchases for 2017.

The city is fortunate to have employees and a Council that take pride in doing a great job and serving the residents of Prescott.

Have a great Holiday Season.

David Hovel, Mayor

SNOW PARKING



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. .

SNOW REMOVAL

When removing snow by shoveling, blowing or plowing, the snow needs to remain on your property. Do not place the snow in the city street. You should not place snow on your neighbor's property especially when plowing snow across the street from your driveway unless you can work something out with your neighbor. Citation can be issued for snow removal.



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 13th. 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!



MARK YOUR UTILITY PAYMENTS



This is a friendly reminder to be sure to either include your yellow remittance slip(s) along with your utility payment or be sure to mark the check with your full account number. Several residence have a house meter and a sprinkler meter, it is fine to pay these on one check but in order to insure proper credit to each account, both account numbers must be provided. We appreciate your cooperation!

ABOUT NEW WATER METERS & SYSTEM

There are many advantages to the customers and the City with the new water meters & system that Prescott has recently installed. A few of which are:

Greater Accuracy.

The accuracy of our new solid state meters is the best available. The Public Service Commission requires the City to account for all water that is pumped from the ground. Most of the replaced mechanical type meters were 20-30 years old and would average only from 70% - 80% for measuring accuracy. That means there was 20% - 30% of water not being accounted for. Now we will be able to show much more closely how and where our water is used.

Conservation.

Customers are now able to fully realize how much water they use and this will help to develop good habits when it comes to water consumption & conservation.

No Lead.

The new meters are of a composite body construction. There is no concern of lead as there was from the old leaded brass body meters.

Data Logging.

The new meters will log 465 days of meter reading data. This logged data can be accessed to help customers chart when, how much, and possibly how, they are using water. Unfortunately this has to be done on site at this time. When migration to a "Fixed Network" happens, we will be able to access this information for you from the office and transmit the information to customers electronically. There is the possibility also for a direct portal so customers can access their information directly at any time.

Leak Detection – If the meter detects a continuous flow of 0.25 GPM, it will trigger an alert for a leak. A letter will be sent to the customer notifying them of the potential leak. This alert will only be gathered when the meter reading is collected. It will take the "Fixed Network" migration to have this alert to be real-time.

Pipe Burst – If the meter detects a maximum flow of 5 GPM for 30 minutes or more it will trigger an alert that a pipe may have burst and is flowing wide open into your house. If this alert is sent and collected at the end of the month, a letter will be sent to the customer notifying them of a potential burst pipe. It will take the "Fixed Network" migration to have his alert bereal-time.

Temperature, Ambient & Media – For now we can only see what the ambient room temperature is where the

meter is located at the time of collecting a reading. When the migration to the "Fixed Network" happens, we will be able to tell (from a desktop) what the ambient room AND the water (media) temperature is in real time. We will be able to alert you if there is a danger of pipes freezing in your home or if water needs to be left running to keep your service from freezing.

Reverse Flow – When any water flows in reverse through the meter, it will register an alert. This is critical information needed to help prevent back-siphoning and cross connection situations.

This alert is also only collected for now at the time of reading the meter.

Time, Labor and Equipment Savings.

It used to take over 7 days to read the meters in Prescott with varying degrees of success. This included crew time, reading device (\$6000.00) and a vehicle. The reads that were gathered then had to be brought to City Hall and the device put into a docking station to download. Now it only takes a little more than 2 hours for one person using a free app on a smart phone to get ALL the reads and then transmitting the reads directly to an office desktop computer. Utility billing will remain quarterly, but meters will now be read monthly for the purpose of gathering alerts. This will not be the optimal situation as leaks and other alerts will not be known about for up to 30 days after an event. After migration to "Fixed Network" the meters will be read from the office, eliminating crew time on the streets all together and the alerts will be in real-time.

PENALTIES – Please be aware

Only Prescott Water Utility personnel are allowed to remove/install or perform maintenance on water meters. **THIS INCLUDES SEASONAL AND IRRIGATION METERS.** Built-in sensors alert the Utility if a water meter has been removed or tampered with and penalties will apply for any unauthorized work involving your water meter. Plumbing activity elsewhere in the building may cause an alarm from your water meter. Please have your plumber call City Hall to advise us if any work will be done involving the water meter or if the water will be turned off to perform plumbing work in your building. If your water is turned off for any plumbing work, another valve shall be installed after (house side) the meter. Having functional valves before and after your water meter will allow the proper isolation of the meter for your repair work.

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NEWS FROM THE 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. 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.

Storytime and other programs will be on hiatus until further notice. Becky Arenivar, our Programming Specialist, is leaving to take a position in the Dakota County Library System. Please check our website for the latest information on events and programs in the new year.

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. Children will find fun and interesting fiction and non-fiction books that are learner-friendly. When children are ready to move into chapter books, our Series section has many titles with large type and short chapters to help them make this transition smoothly. Did you know that listening to audiobooks also helps develop reading skills, such as vocabulary and comprehension? Audiobooks are also great for those long car trips over the holidays. Reading and listening for fun has been shown to help children succeed in school and beyond. Library staff are willing and able to help you find books

and audiobooks that will fit your child's reading level and interests.

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. 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.



NEED THAT EXTRA CHRISTMAS GIFT

Annual Boat Launch Stickers make a great Christmas gift. We have the 2017 stickers on hand so stop up and get one. The cost remains the same \$35.00 for City of Prescott residents and \$50.00 for non-residents.

2017 BUDGET

The 2017 City of Prescott Budget has been approved. The Council voted to take a 1.31% tax levy increase which is equal to the amount of net new construction. Overall, the City's net mill rate is being reduced from \$26.98 per \$1000 assessed value down to \$26.09. This is a reduction of approximately \$89 per \$100,000 value. Additionally, the Lottery Credit and First Dollar Credits have increased saving those eligible for them an additional \$29. If you have questions about the levy or 2017 budget, please contact City Hall.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CITY STAFF



