

May 2017

**Notes from the Mayor**

For those of you that don't know my fulltime job is building inspector/code enforcement for another city. I have been doing code enforcement for about 27 years and building inspection for about 20 years. Being a code enforcement officer is not an easy job but it is a very necessary evil. Since we as humans cannot always get along or sometimes we find it hard to communicate with our neighbors we have the need for that third party to help us out.

In the past there was no code enforcement officer, just city office staff (zoning administrator, clerk and city administrator) that would respond in a reactive mode for enforcement. Sometimes enforcement and follow up wasn't really strong because of the time constraints.

With a code enforcement officer the enforcing can be a lot more proactive and less reactive. Some residents that were afraid to communicate with their neighbors about problems and issues have welcomed the proactive style and some of us that get a notice from the code enforcement office don't like this at all. Where is the happy medium? Codes are there for a reason. From my experiences enforce is not always an easy thing. It takes professional and experience to be understanding and yet firm.

The city is working on the happy medium but we need everyone's cooperation and support. The city will also need to work with you the best we can. If you have questions or need clarification about a notice please feel free to contact the code enforcement officer, Sanjeev Dhawan. Remember he is just doing his job enforcing the codes the city has.

If we work together we can make the City a place to be proud of.

Any questions or concerns please call me at 715-262-3615. Have a great summer.

**David Hovel, Mayor**

**Build a Better World!!** Summer Library Program at the Prescott Public Library

This summer we celebrate the benefits of Building a Better World with activities, events and reading incentives that encourage kids and families to read, move and play. Did you know that reading for fun through the summer helps children retain their reading skills and fights summer slide? The Prescott Public Library's Summer Library Program is jam-packed with events and activities to get kids, teens and adults excited about reading! **Build a Better World** will feature weekly events with crafts and activities for children.

All Ages Storytimes encourage early literacy through stories, songs, and activities. We'll have ongoing activities in the library if you can't get to scheduled events. **The Summer Library Program is for all ages from babies to senior citizens.** Here's a sneak peek at the exciting events we have planned for this year's Summer Library Program. Summer Storytimes, on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m., and will run June 9 – August 9. Weekly events for children and families begin on June 14th with an Author visit from **Jacqueline West** (The Books of Elsewhere). Family Craft Hour is on most Wednesday nights at 6pm that include starting a garden and planting your own plant, building with recycled materials, weather aware crafts and information, building fairy and castle doors, using 3D pens to create and much more! We are excited to present the kids rock band **The Bazillions** to kick off The Prescott Public Library's Summer Library Program on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Other performers this summer include **Schiffelly Puppets** and **Dazzling Dave**. New to the library this summer are: **Lapsit Storytime** on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and a **Teen Book Club** on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Registration starts June 9. When you register, you'll get a starter kit with everything you need to participate and earn reading rewards. An event schedule and additional information is available on our website at [www.prescottpubliclibrary.org](http://www.prescottpubliclibrary.org). Sign the whole family up and spend the summer reading and learning how we can **Build a Better World!**

**Hydrant & Water Main Flushing**

Mid to late June will be when utility crew members will be flushing hydrants and mains. Please pay attention to when flushing activities have occurred in or around your neighborhood. When flushing has occurred, make sure you run water in your home for 5 minutes or until your water runs clear. This running of your water should be done at a cold water faucet nearest your water meter. Do not run a hot water faucet or clothes washer as sediment could enter your water heater. Watch for the notices on the Prescott website for flushing times and areas.

**Pressure Reducing Valve Stations**

Over the next four years Prescott will be modifying our four pressure reducing valve (PRV) stations. These PRV stations are located above the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), Kinnickinnic St & Locust St, Cherry St & Elm St and at Pearl St & Hilton St. You will notice these PRV stations are at the top

of hills. These are the locations where water mains connect to serve properties on lower elevations in the city and are needed so the water pressure at the lower elevations does not rise to an unacceptable level. The modifications to the PRV stations are needed so more complete and effective flushing of the water mains on the lower elevations in the City can be accomplished. There will be periods of disturbed water when the construction happens and properties affected will have advanced notice so procedures such as with hydrant and main flushing can be followed.

**Flushable Wipes**

The thing manufacturers of “flushable wipes” don’t (won’t) tell you is that their product causes many problems in municipal sanitary sewer systems. Sewer main backups and straining the wipes from the flow that enters the Wastewater Treatment Facility are a couple of the problems caused by the wipes. When they are strained from the flow at the WWTF the wipes are then placed in the trash **WHERE THEY SHOULD BE DEPOSITED IN THE FIRST PLACE**. Remember what you put down your drains eventually ends up in the Mississippi River. Municipal Code 470-4F(4) prohibits flushable wipes entering the sanitary sewer system.

**Driveway Permits May be Required**

Please study Municipal Ordinance 284-1B (can be found on the Prescott website) “Driveway Permit Required; Application Procedure” if you plan on doing any driveway work.

**IT IS AGAINST CITY ORDINANCES** for anyone other than City employees or their designee to disconnect or tamper with a water meter. The water meters now in use by the City have an alert built-in which shows if the meter has been tampered with, thus giving an indication of possible surreptitious use of water. If you need to have plumbing work done at your property and think the tamper alert could be activated, please call City Hall and schedule an appointment to have a Utility representative stop by and review your situation and then apply for a plumbing permit if required. If you have a seasonal or second meter that needs to be removed, **DO NOT** remove it on your own, call City Hall and schedule an appointment for Utility personnel to remove the meter for the winter.

**We Need Your Help**

The last time our Utility bills went out, we had a lot of issues arise with checks not being written out correctly. If you choose to pay with check please be mindful when writing out your checks. It is important that your written line matches your number. The bank will only accept what is written

legibly on the written line. An easy way to pay your utility bill is to set up Bill pay with your bank. Most of the time this is a free service and your bank sends your check directly to us. If you choose to use Bill pay please make sure you add in your customer number on your check. This will make sure your money makes it to you correct account.

**Lawn Mowing**

City Code of Ordinances finds that grasses and noxious weeds which exceed 12 inches in length create a public nuisances and need to be mowed. Failure to mow can result in citations and/or city completing the work. All costs associated with work will be billed back to the property owner.

**Don’t Blow Your Lawn Clippings onto Public Street**

Mowing grass clippings onto a public street is considered a public nuisance. Grass clippings and leaves also add an unwanted nutrient load to the rivers when they are washed down the storm water system and into the rivers.

**Compost Site**

Compost site is now open. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. 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 City Crew has done a fabulous job of cleaning up the site and would appreciate your cooperation to help keep it that way.

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