



Leavenworth Courier

News from the Leavenworth City Council



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CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS

NOVEMBER

City Hall will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

DECEMBER

City Hall will close Friday, Dec. 23 at noon and Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

JANUARY

City Hall will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2 to celebrate the New Year.



Sledding in Front Street Park

2012 City Budget

The Leavenworth City Council received the 2012 Preliminary Budget on November 8, 2011. The Council and staff have been working on developing the budget documents since the Council Budget Retreat in April of 2011. Highlights of the 2012 Budget include:

- The ad valorem tax collection will increase to \$12,081, while the total property tax collected will decrease \$22,815 with the City refinancing several bonds and reducing requested bond repayment amounts.
- \$641,000 of residential road improvements, 80% (\$512,800) funded through various trans-

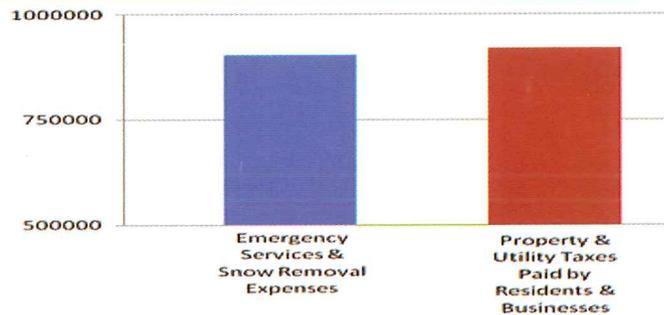
portation grant awards and 20% (\$128,200) match grant through the Transportation Benefit District.

- A 21% increase in the Chelan County Sheriff's Contract for Police Services with no change in service levels.
- A \$32,457 decrease in employee costs by hold-

ing positions open and reallocating job responsibilities.

- Total expenditure for police, fire, emergency services and snow removal is \$902,515. For comparison, total property and utility taxes paid by residents and local businesses is \$919,019. (See Chart Below).

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You Should Know Winter Parking and Snow Removal

SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

The City officially begins snow removal operations at 3:00 AM after each three (3) inches of snowfall. Snow plowing begins on primary emergency routes during the storm and prior to a snow callout. There are three dedicated snow plow trucks assigned to the residential areas, two front end loaders and a road grader assigned to snow removal in the

downtown area, parking lots and alleyways, and two skid steers assigned to removing snow from sidewalks. Cleanup and removal of a three to six inch snowfall is typically completed by 9:30 AM. Weather, temperatures, total snowfall, snow consistency, and mechanical breakdowns will affect the timing and completion of snow removal operations. Maintaining the plow schedule is top priority of the Public Works Department during

winter months. Residents are asked to adhere to the posted no parking signs and the winter parking ban so snow removal operations can take place safely and efficiently.

SIDEWALKS

The removal of snow and ice from sidewalks is the responsibility of adjacent property owners. If you place snow and ice from the sidewalk into the street you are

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HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION

DECEMBER

Residential garbage collection, no change.

Commercial garbage collection normally scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 25th will be picked up Monday, Dec. 26th.

JANUARY

Residential garbage collection, no change.

Commercial garbage collections normally scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 1 will be picked up on Monday, Jan. 2.



NEW STREET SWEEPER

The new sweeper arrived in town Nov. 14. The new truck should allow for a better job to be completed in a shorter amount of time. Benefits include less dust during operations and less grime/grit washed into catch basins washed into the Wenatchee River.

WANTED!

Bright, motivated people who care about the future of Leavenworth are needed to serve on the City of Leavenworth Planning Commission and Design Review Board.

The City of Leavenworth is seeking two Planning Commission members and one Design Review Board member. If you reside or own property inside the city limits of Leavenworth, or reside or own property within the urban growth area and want to get involved in your community, contact Cary Siess, Development Services Staff at (509) 548-5275 for information.

The Application period has been extended, and applications will be accepted until December 2, 2011 with a selection process on or before December 16, 2011.

Visit www.cityofleavenworth.com for more information

Parks Plan Update

Recreation opportunities and parks are necessary and beneficial for the health, social, and economic benefit of Leavenworth.

The City is in the process of updating the Parks & Recreation Plan which was last updated in 1997. The update will inventory and evaluate existing facilities and activities, and identify the needs and enjoyment of the community and visitors year-round. With this information, the Park Plan will help determine the resources required to facilitate recreation opportunities and continued development of parks and administration of recreation programs.



Park Plan Objectives:

1. Evaluate and define organizational structure to manage parks and recreation services.
2. Inventory and evaluate existing facilities and activities.
3. Establish new, and revise current, policies to guide decisions and implementation of services.
4. Solicit public input to forecast demand and identify future needs.
5. Identify a six-year capital improvement program and long-range objectives for land acquisition and facilities improvement.
6. Identify costs and related funding programs for recreation services, capital improvements, and maintenance.

An extensive public comment process has been ongoing throughout this important planning process.

You Can Still Participate!

Key Dates and Meetings:

- December 7, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – Planning Commission Public Hearing on Final Draft
- February 14, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. – City Council Hearing on Final Draft
- February 28, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. – City Council Adoption of Final Parks Plan

Chelan County Fire Protection District #3 announced a Fire Protection Classification change for District residents and businesses outside of the City of Leavenworth from a Protection Class 8 to a Protection Class 6. Chief Kelly O'Brien and Fire District #3 asked for an evaluation of the District's fire protection capabilities within the District's own boundaries. Properties located within 5 miles of a responding fire station that have a standard hydrant water system within 1,000 feet will receive a classification of 6. Properties within 5 miles of a station that do not have hydrant access shall receive a classification of a PC 8A. Properties located beyond 5 miles of a responding station shall be a PC 9A.

There are 3 possible benefits this change in classification could have on your homeowners insurance. First, Homeowner Insurance Rates could be lowered. Second, more insurance companies should be willing to quote private property policies making it more competitive. Lastly, areas receiving the 6 classification could see some assistance with building or sub-division requirements. The new rating goes into effect December 1, 2011.

Winter Parking and Snow Removal continued from page 1



WINTER PARKING BAN

The City of Leavenworth implements a Winter Parking Ban on all city streets between the hours of 3:00 AM and 7:00 AM November 15th through March 14th as required per LMC

responsible for it not obstructing drainage or interfering with travel as required by Leavenworth Municipal Code (LMC) 12.20.010. We appreciate your cooperation.

10.08.020. The Winter Parking Ban is in effect regardless of snow conditions during this time frame. Your attention and compliance to this ordinance will help make our streets safer and drivable this winter. Enforcement of the parking ban may include ticketing and towing of vehicles left stopped or parked on any street within the city which constitutes a danger, obstruction of traffic, or interferes with the City equipment in removing snow from the streets and/or alleys.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND SIDEWALKS

It is unlawful for any property owner to allow snow or ice to hang from or accumulate on any portion of a building or structure located over public right-of-way. Please make sure that any icicles hanging from eave overhangs are immediately removed to prevent injury to pedestrians.

Utility Rate Increase Proposal

The City is proposing modest increases of utility service rates in 2012, the "average residential bill" would see a



combined increase of 3%, this percentage would equate to a \$3.85 increase on January 1. Setting utility rates is a public process and public participation is encouraged. This final proposal will be before the City Council on Tuesday, December 13th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

The City funds the service of Water, Sewer and Garbage services through special utility funds. These funds are not supported by property taxes, but require revenue generated from user

fees to balance expenditures. The rate structure must capture the costs of operating the utility, which include personnel, equipment, materials, debt service, and capital improvements. The City operations must meet a host of federal and state standards for safe drinking water, sewage treatment and environmental protection. The principal expenditures in these funds are for the treatment of water and wastewater, and the maintenance of infrastructure in plant, pipe, pump, and urban stream systems valued at over \$45 million.

HDR Engineering was contracted by the City to perform the Utility Rate Study. On November 8, 2011 Ms. Cil Pierce, HDR, provided residents in attendance a review of the detailed study analysis, conducted by HDR

Engineering, Inc., for the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste (Garbage) utilities. In addition, the presentation reviewed the need and assessment for a new Stormwater Utility. The City is also reviewing a new water rate structure, planned for implementation on July 1, which encourages conservation of water use and reduces the combined rate to approximately \$3.50. The new water structure reduces the current allowance of 15,000 gallons to 7,500 gallons and then includes various increases based on consumption. Additional rate increases were also presented for 2013 through 2016 with an average increase of 5% each year; however, these will be reviewed annually by the City Council for future increase considerations.

2012 City Budget continued from page 1

- Total operation expenditures within the 2012 budget decreased slightly from the 2011 budget, 0.37%. The 2012 total budget amount – operating, capital improvements, and debt service – is \$11,979,589. The additional expenditures for services, parks, capital improvements and general government services are funded through grants, fees, retail sales/ lodging tax, and charges for services. A full copy of the 2012 budget is available at City Hall or on the City's Website <http://www.cityofleavenworth.com/city-government/finance/budget-development/>

