



# Leavenworth Courier

News from the Leavenworth City Council



FALL 2013

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### Leavenworth's Annual Fall Clean-Up

The City of Leavenworth gives Single-Family residents within the City limits the opportunity to put out extra yard debris with the regular garbage collection every Spring and Fall.

You may place up to 4 bags of leaves, pine needles, and other yard debris next to your garbage and it will be picked up at the same time. There will be no extra charge for the pickup of the first 4 bags of yard waste; additional bags will be charged.

Watch your water bill and [www.cityofleavenworth.com](http://www.cityofleavenworth.com) for more information.

## A Minute With the Mayor



Mayor Cheryl K. Farivar

### How 'Bout that Ski Hill Drive?

Back when I was running for Mayor, I asked everyone I talked to "What is your most pressing City concern?" This question led to many interesting discussions, but overwhelmingly the most commonly voiced complaint was along the lines of "I want the City to find a way to fix our streets!" Well I took you seriously, and so did the City Council, which led to the establishment of the City of Leavenworth Transportation Benefit District, one of the first in the state. Because you, the voters, had the wisdom to approve a .2% retail sales tax increase to address our transportation issues, we now have a dedicated savings account which is funded, for the most part, by tourism dollars. Just to refresh your memory, this sales tax increase amounts to a mere 2 cents on a \$10 purchase and does not apply to grocery sales. So every time one of our visitors buys something from a merchant, goes for a carriage ride, eats an ice cream cone or a meal in a restaurant, a few pennies are added to the TBD fund. And those pennies add up to a significant amount of money! In 2012, the TBD collected around \$220,000 in revenue created by this tool. This type of taxing district works for Leavenworth be-

cause so much of our local business revenue is subject to sales tax and is paid mostly by our visitors, so the burden does not fall on the local resident. This revenue now provides the City Match portion for grant applications and to fund the repair and improvement of our streets. For the past 2 years, it has enabled the City to repave and resurface several of our residential streets. It's our policy to choose those streets that are in the worst repair and, thus far, we have been able to resurface portions of Ash Street, Summit Street, Cedar Street, Prospect Street, River Street and now, by popular request, the complete resurfacing of Ski Hill Drive!

Phase 1 of the Ski Hill Drive project is now complete and Phase 2 will be a part of the "Safe Routes to School" project which will add sidewalks to the south side of West Street and create crosswalks at the intersection of West and Ski Hill, allowing for more pedestrian safety for our kids. We had hoped to complete this project by the end of the summer, however the late bid process for contractors is pushing us too close to the winter months to complete it before the snow flies. So, next spring, Ski Hill Drive will be fully resurfaced from Highway 2 all the way up to Pine Street, complete with the creation of a bicycle safety lane on the east side and designated parking on the west side.

So now, when you drive up Ski Hill Drive, enjoy the smooth ride and give yourself a pat on the back for supporting the establishment of the Transportation Benefit District retail sales tax increase. I'm certainly glad you did!

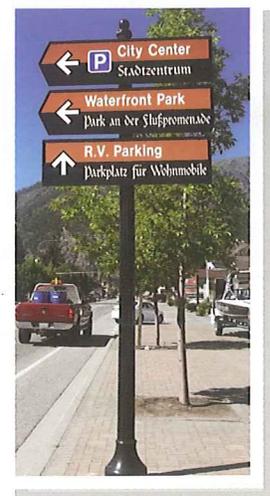
*Cheri Farivar*

## Way-finding Continues

The City Council is progressing with the new way-finding system. The primary purpose of a new way-finding signage strategy for the City of Leavenworth, particularly the downtown area, is to enable a more efficient and effective way for visitors to find the wide-variety of facilities and opportunities throughout Leavenworth. The system goals include the creation of a "Gateway, Vehicular and Pedestrian Directionals, and Pedestrian Map Kiosks with Maps that Describe the System". This will enhance and expand the identity of Leavenworth's downtown area, create critical links between parking and transportation hubs, the retail area, and the waterfront. The system will complement and enhance the Old World Bavarian Alpine Theme, while still providing visitors with easy-to-read, easy-to-follow directions.

The system will be standardized to the greatest extent possible, allowing for efficient procurement and economic use of planning resources. The vision includes the design to be an effective program to be integrally tied to procedures for maintenance and City policies.

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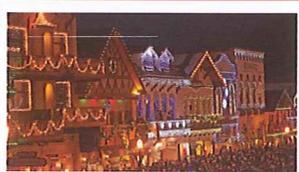
## Holiday Lighting— Before You Decorate!

All lighting in Leavenworth's Commercial Zones are regulated by the City's Lighting Code, including holiday / seasonal lighting. A lighting permit is not required for seasonal lighting, but the following are not allowed:

- Lights which are blinking, flashing, moving, chasing, revolving, flickering, changing intensity, or changing color.
- Rope lights.
- Neon lights.
- Laser source lights

Please note that this applies to exterior AND interior lights if visible from the right of way.

Many holiday light fixtures allow for a variety of lighting colors and/or patterns to be displayed. If you install lighting which can be turned to a setting which allows blinking, chasing, changing color, etc, make sure that anyone who has access to the lights is aware of these regulations to make sure your lighting is not in violation.



## Councilmember Spotlight The True Cost of Water



Did you know the City of Leavenworth treats 295,000,000 gallons of water annually? That's 808,220 gallons per day, 365 days a year. The City sells this water to customers at a base rate of \$48.00 for the first 7,500 gallons of water a month. This equates to .006 cents per gallon. Costs then go up from there based on usage.

In recent years, the City has had to invest millions of dollars into upgrading, expanding, and repairing the water systems. This includes a new water reservoir on Ski Hill Drive and Icicle Road, drilling a new well and rehabbing an older one.

The cost of:

- All Capital improvements
- Treating the water

- State permits and licenses
  - Water treatment operators wages and benefits
  - Electrical power for the systems
  - Equipment and supplies
- Brings the cost of water to .008 cents per gallon.

The City is consistently applying for Grant money to help keep the cost for consumers down while maintaining the highest quality of water in the state.

The City watches reserves carefully to ensure there is no windfall from the citizens of Leavenworth. We are trying to maintain our growing water system and to provide excellent quality water for this generation and those to follow.

*Councilmember Lak*

## Parking Updates

This summer marks a number of changes for the City as the City Council begins implementing a parking management plan to better utilize the available downtown parking locations; this includes 435 on street free parking stalls, 200 free parking stall locations, and the 241 paid parking stalls located in City parking lots. In addition there are approximately 460 privately owned parking stalls along Hwy. 2 and in the downtown core. The City's goal in developing a parking strategy is to provide more parking to downtown visitors and reduce the amount of overflow parking into the residential neighborhoods. The City has moved forward in several directions:

### 30 Minute Stalls:

Beginning in mid-August this year, the Downtown area will have 10 new 30 minute limited parking stalls. These stalls were made available by the City Council to assist those residents and business owners that just need a quick place to park for a downtown errand. There are several locations: four on Front Street, three on Commercial Street, two on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and one on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The 30 minute limit will be enforced so they are available for use throughout the day and evening. The fee for violating the 30 minute limitation is \$25.00 per incident.

### Parking Fees:

The City currently has two parking fees established for the use of the paid parking lots. In lot P4 next to City Hall, the fee is paid by credit card or debit card at the parking pay station. The fee is \$1.50 per hour, over 5 hours the fee is \$7.50 for the entire day. At the Fruit Warehouse Lots (P1 & P2) and Festhalle Lot (P3) the fee is \$5.00; these fees will change when a pay station is installed later this summer. These are the only City owned lots where parking is charged – on street parking, the DOT Parking Lot, the Swimming Pool Lot, and Evans Street Parking Lot remain free of charge. Proceeds used from the paid parking lots are dedicated towards the cost of parking improvements and property purchase so this burden is not placed on the property tax or sales tax revenue streams. These revenues are used to provide City services to residents and businesses.



On street parking remains free and for the most part with no time limit. As the City collects the information on how the parking lots and on street parking is being used, a review of current practices will continue. The parking management program is a work in progress to find the best solutions to managing parking, reducing congestion, and other vehicle related issues that confront the City.

# Finding a Water Leak

If your water bill seems higher than normal for this time of year, or if you have received a call from the City, you should check your system for a water leak. Follow this step by step process to help find your leak:

1. Turn off all running water inside and outside your home.
2. Locate your water meter, which is usually found in the sidewalk in front of your property, and look for movement in the flow indicator.

You should see a small triangle, called a flow indicator, at the top of the meter. If this indicator is moving, you may have a water leak somewhere on your property.

3. Find your water leak through the process of elimination.

Check your sprinkler system for a leak. Shut off the valves for your backflow prevention device that serves your irrigation system, which is usually found in

your front yard. Now check your water meter. If the flow indicator has stopped moving, your irrigation system could be the cause of your leak. If the flow indicator is still moving, you may have a leak inside your home.

Size of leak	Loss of gallons per month
1/32"	6,000 gal.
1/16"	25,000 gal.
1/8"	100,000 gal.
1/4"	400,000 gal.

Check your main service line for a leak. The main service line provides all the water you use inside your home. Find your water shutoff valve, which is usually found in your front yard, in your garage, crawl space, or basement. Shut off the valve, go inside your house and turn on a faucet to make sure the water is off. Now check your water meter. If the flow indicator is moving, the leak is between the shutoff valve and the water meter.

Check your toilets for a leak. Turn off one toilet at the valve located directly behind the toilet, then check the flow indicator on the water meter. If the flow indicator has stopped moving, that toilet has a leak. If you still see the flow indicator moving, that toilet is not the cause of the leak. Check each toilet in your home one by one.

Check your pool for a leak. Turn off your pool's automatic fill function. Place a bucket on a step in the pool, so that the rim is higher than the surrounding water level. Place a rock in the bucket to weigh it down, and fill it with water to the same height as the surrounding water. Leave the bucket and pool undisturbed for several days, then compare the water level in the bucket to the water level in the pool. If the water level in the bucket is noticeably higher than the water level in the pool, you may be losing pool water to a leak.

## Come on in...the water's fine!

Although it has been a struggle at times, the Pool salt cell and the new heater are installed and running well at this time. There were a few issues that had to be ironed out concerning the balancing of the pool chemistry. When the salt cell was first installed, there was a struggle with the chlorine levels being totally sporadic causing them to fall to unacceptable levels. The answer turned out to be in the type of salt we were using in the pool. By changing to a regular pool salt, we eliminated the buildup of phosphate in the pool. This buildup caused the chlorine to attack the phosphate, causing the chlorine to be used up. With that issue settled, we were able to stabilize the chlorine, and the salt cell is doing the job it is intended to do. The new heater is working flawlessly.

## Fall Festivals and Events

### 18th Annual Leavenworth Quilt Show

September 4—8, 10 am—5pm  
Fee: \$5 for all three days

Featuring hundreds of quilts displayed in the various shops downtown. Visitors will meander throughout the Show, enjoying the antique quilts, wearable quilted art, wall quilts, table runners, and new quilts, all on display for your enjoyment.

[www.quiltersheaven.com](http://www.quiltersheaven.com)

### Wenatchee River Salmon Festival

September 19-20, 9am—3pm  
September 21, 9am—5pm  
Fee: No Charge

The 23rd Annual Wenatchee River Salmon Festival, "Spirit of the Salmon", celebrates the return of the Salmon to the Wenatchee River with food, entertainment, craft booths and outdoor activities for the entire family. A natural resource educational event held at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery.

[www.salmonfest.org](http://www.salmonfest.org)

### 50th Autumn Leaf Festival and Parade

September 27—29, All Day  
Fee: No Charge

This year Autumn Leaf celebrates its 50th festival, parade, and royal lady of the autumn leaves. The Autumn Leaf Festival is Leavenworth's longest running festival. The Autumn Leaf Festival Association started this event in 1964 with the adoption of the Bavarian Theme and continues today as one of Leavenworth's major festivals.

### Grand Parade September 28 at 12 noon

[www.autumnleaffestival.com](http://www.autumnleaffestival.com)

