



Leavenworth Courier

News from the Leavenworth City Council



SPRING 2016

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Keep Leavenworth Clean

The first day of spring will be here soon, and with that in mind the City Council would like to remind the citizens of Leavenworth and the business community that we all have the responsibility of contributing to the public cleanliness of the City.

Let's all do our part to keep our city clean and litter free.



Vacation / Overnight Rental Properties within the Residential Neighborhoods

The Leavenworth Planning Commission is looking for your input about regulating short-term/overnight rental properties within the residential neighborhoods. The current City code does not allow for overnight (short-term/less than a month) rentals in residential zones within the City.



On April 6, 2016, the Commission will hear the first round of public comments on the topic of short-term/overnight rental regulation. We need your feedback.

Currently, any owner of a single family home can rent out his or her property for monthly periods. These properties are considered and regulated the same as home owner occupied properties. However, short-term / vacation / overnight rentals are becoming more popular with some property owners within the City, currently offering properties for short-term / overnight rental, resulting in illegal or "black market" rentals, and in violation of City regulations. In light of the popularity of this rental market, we can expect more property owners to consider offering their properties for this use.

The Planning Commission is looking for options on addressing this issue and is seeking your input. Listed below are just a few of the questions they will be exploring:

- ⇒ Should short-term rentals be allowed in residential neighborhoods?
- ⇒ What does a neighborhood look like? Is there a concern for the loss of community character with the addition of this use? What implications are there with short-term rentals; noise, parties, and parking/too many vehicles.
- ⇒ If short-term / overnight rentals are allowed with a Business License, what needs to be included in licensing? For example, regular inspection for rental properties, with penalties for landlords who crowd more occupants in than the City allows?
- ⇒ What care of the property and clean up should be needed? Does the owner need to live on site or hire a property manager?
- ⇒ What is necessary to prevent excessive traffic, parking shortages, loud noise, and increased garbage and sewage?
- ⇒ Are there areas within the residential neighborhoods that would be more appropriate for short-term / overnight rentals? Are there lot size limits to mitigate impacts?
- ⇒ What issues and policy options do you want the Planning Commissioner's to consider? Multiple policy options may be needed to address a single issue.

Many communities are facing this issue, it is relatively new with the online reservation service companies being available to property owners. The opportunity on April 6, 2016 is your chance to help frame the conversation. We hope to see you there!

Leavenworth Recycling

The City Recycling Center is located at 216 14th Street between the City Park Shop Building and the Public Works Building, across the street from the Community Cupboard. **The hours of operation for late winter are Wednesday from 4:30 PM—6:30 PM and Saturdays from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.** The City Recycling Center **accepts** flattened corrugated cardboard, aluminum, tin cans, and newspaper.

Residents residing in the city limits may also dispose of clean yard waste at the recycling center. Yard waste may either be loose or in paper lawn and garden refuse bags. No commercial or non-resident use of the yard waste recycling will be allowed. Proof of residence is required: a current City Utility bill which includes garbage service and either a State ID or Driver's License.



Depending on use, the City will explore areas for expanding the recycling program to areas that are cost effective. Hours are subject to change for the spring, summer, and fall seasons. An attendant will be on duty to monitor use and ID verification. The City does use video monitoring equipment at the location to prosecute any illegal dumping under LMC Title 8 (8.48.030).



Ruff! Ruff! The City has a new contract with Wenatchee Valley Animal Care & Control, or better known as the Humane Society. This new contract will better serve the needs of the residents and take up less valuable time from our local Sheriff Officers.

CONTACT ANIMAL CONTROL CALL (509) 662-9577 EXT. 1

*If no answer, leave a detailed message with a call back number.
An officer will promptly return your call.*

Under the new contract, residents and property owners will be able to call Animal Control and talk with an officer or leave a report and Animal Control will provide a response based on the critical assessment need of the incident. Animal complaints will be accepted 24 hours per day; hours of operations are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Sunday. In addition, Animal Control will provide staffing to investigate and enforce violations of any state or city regulation pertaining to animals. Another change included in the contract is that Wenatchee Valley Animal Care & Control will handle the licensing of animals within the City. For your convenience, you may still pay for your annual dog tag at City Hall and we will forward your payment on to the Humane Society.

One of the concerns in previous contracts was the response time for Animal Control because of the distance from the Animal Control Center located in Wenatchee to Leavenworth; this still remains an issue. The cost of the new contract is \$16,000 annually plus the collection of licensing fees within the City, this is approximately an \$8,000 annual increase. The new contract however does provide for a service level similar to that of the non-incorporated areas of Chelan County and other small cities.

Spring Clean-up is Coming Soon!

City of Leavenworth's Annual Spring Clean-up for single-family residential households is scheduled for mid-April through early May. Check the City's website for specific dates. The City crew will pick up yard debris the same day household garbage is collected, at no extra charge. For those that want to finish the yard clean up early, yard waste may be disposed of at the City's recycling center.

For spring pick-up, leaves, pine needles, and other yard debris must be in recyclable paper bags. No furniture, appliances, dirt, rocks, sod, or building debris will be picked up. The yard debris should be out next to your garbage tote and will be picked up the same day. Please limit the extra yard waste to 4 bags per week.



Remember to use Recyclable Paper Yard Waste Bags

Last year, the City asked the residents to begin using recyclable paper yard waste bags in an effort for the City to save costs associated with dump charges. Because of this change, the City is able to responsibly dispose of the debris as recyclable material at Stemilt Organic Recycling Center.

Wild Fires: Embers Matter

By Annie Schmidt, Director
Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

When people think of wildfire preparedness, the first thing that comes to mind is usually thinning trees and pruning brush next to your home. If you don't live on a wooded lot, it is easy to dismiss wildfire as a problem for those who live "in the woods." However, embers from wildfires can travel up to a mile. That sobering statistic means that all of us, even those who live within the City, are vulnerable to wildfire.

There are things YOU CAN DO to reduce the risks from embers to your home.

1. Clean roofs, gutters and decks (remember to look under the deck) by removing dead leaves, pine needles and debris.
2. Replace vent screens with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh.
3. Use rock as an alternative to landscape mulch.
4. Trim tree branches so they are at least 10 feet from your roof.
5. Replace flammable roof and deck materials with non-combustible alternatives.



While you are thinking about how to prepare your home, don't forget to prepare your family.

1. Make an evacuation plan (know more than one way to leave your neighborhood).
2. Understand Chelan County's evacuation levels: Level 1 is "Ready," Level 2 is "Set" (or, if you have large animals or need extra time to evacuate, you may consider evacuating at this time), and Level 3 is "Go." Remember, evacuate promptly when you are advised to do so, OR IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE.
3. Have an emergency "go kit" with the papers, prescriptions, photos, and pet supplies that you would not want to leave behind.

www.chumstickcoalition.org

Taste Leavenworth

April 2—3
Where: Front Street Park

Each April in Leavenworth we say "auf Wiedersehen" to winter with a month-long celebration called Spring Sensations! All April-long Leavenworth's finest shops, lodging, and restaurants feature culinary specials with a 'pear'ticular focus—after all, Leavenworth is one of the largest growers of organic pears in the USA!



A 'culinary crawl' through town where you buy your passport to tasty town! Your passport is packed with juicy coupons redeemable for locally-made, locally-sourced, or pear-inspired delights throughout Leavenworth.

To ensure you enjoy your delicious stroll through town, we'll have live music in the Front Street Gazebo.

www.leavenworth.org

Spring Festivals and Events

Leavenworth Ale-Fest

April 22—23
Where: Leavenworth Festhalle

The Leavenworth Ale-Fest is Leavenworth's first beer festival. The inaugural festival took place back in April 2007. Since then, it has grown each year into what it is today. A fun event that inspires competition for breweries, food booths, and more.

Most important, the Fest raised monies to benefit the non-profit Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum. An integral and very important part of the Leavenworth Community.



www.leavenworthalefest.com

Maifest

May 13—15
Fee: No Charge



The sun is out, the apple and pear blossoms are springing to life, and the wildflowers are bursting at the buds! It's time for our very Bavarian celebration of spring - Maifest!

Join us downtown for a full weekend of entertainment including plenty of music, the traditional maibaum (maypole) dance, traditional German dance lessons and the *Festzug* (Grand March) on Saturday.

www.leavenworth.org

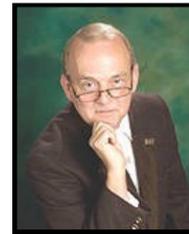


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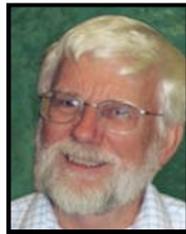
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Local

www.cityofleavenworth.com



Michael Molohon



Elmer Larsen



Robert Francis



Carolyn Wilson
Mayor Pro-Tempore



Gretchen Wearne



Mia Bretz



Margaret Neighbors

City of Leavenworth Mission Statement:
The City of Leavenworth is a community of creative people dedicated, as partners, to effectively serving the diverse needs of City residents, business interests, visitors, and our upper Valley neighbors.

News from the City Council

City Project Update...

Chumstick Multi-use Pathway and Water/Sewer Extension: The scope of this project includes a multi-use pathway running along the Chumstick Highway from Cascade High School to north of the Chumstick/North Road and the extension of Water Sewer transmission lines with a lift station to service the full Meadowlark Development. The project was put out for public bidding on March 4th and the bid opening will take place on March 25th; with the award of the contract, the construction is scheduled to begin this spring.



Public Works Department "Springing" into Action: The snow is melting away and spring is in the air. City crews are busy beginning the tasks of repairing all that "Mother Nature" has thrown upon us. The City street sweeper will be out canvassing all of the city streets, removing trash, debris, and grit left by the receding snow banks. Park crews will be out, repairing the sledding hill and sprucing up the parks in anticipation of spring flower baskets and planters. Mailboxes will be repaired, pot holes filled, and curbs repaired and painted. Winter will soon be one big white memory. Let the festivals begin!