



Leavenworth Courier

News from the Leavenworth City Council



SUMMER 2012

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Keep Leavenworth Clean!

The first day of summer 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.



A Minute With the Mayor

Lets Talk About Pine Street...



Mayor Cheryl K. Fazio

When we talk about residential streets in poor condition, there are two that rise above all others in the category of "most concern". The first is Ski Hill Drive, which has become everyone's favorite obstacle course, and the second is Pine Street. Ski Hill Drive is well on the way to being improved. We hoped that it would be done this summer, however there have been significant delays due to the fact that the money for the pavement restoration comes from the federal government and is subject to review by the Federal Highways Administration, a process that lengthens the lead time on any project by months. Thus, after the review process is completed, it will likely be too late in this calendar year to award the bid and get the work done before winter sets in and prevents any paving project.

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New Water Rates Begin July 1

Effective July 1, 2012, the City's new water rate structure will be implemented. The City completed a utility rate study in 2011. The new water rate structure provides the revenues to operate the City water utility so revenues equal expenses as required by law. Additionally, the new rate structure is a way to promote water conservation to assist in limiting future cost increases.

The new rate structure will do two things; first it will reduce the monthly base rate by \$2 and the second will be to implement the new consumption charges based on a reduction of the base rate to 7,500 gallons of water per month. The breakout of the new conservation rate will be:

- \$47.00 in town monthly base rate, reduced from \$49.00
- \$0.65 cents per 1,000 gallons used between 7,501 gallons - 15,000 gallons.
- \$1.45 per 1000 gallons used between 15,001 gallons - 25,000 gallons
- \$1.85 per 1000 gallons for those over 25,001 gallons per month

(Note: Commercial rates are slightly higher per thousand gallons with different block ranges.) You may contact City staff to review your normal monthly average water use.

In the past, the monthly rate has been based primarily on a base rate that included 15,000 gallons of water. A charge of \$1.25 per thousand gallons went into effect after the initial use of 15,000 gallons.



Citizens that conserve their water use will see a reduction in their monthly bill. Since the rate is scheduled to change as of July 1, 2012, the August 2012 billing will be the first to reflect the new conservation rates.

The City's records show that the average water usage for a single-family household for the billing months of June – October 2011 was 12,394 gallons. This would be \$3.18 for water usage or a \$1.18 increase in their monthly water bill. However, annually, this single-family household will receive an \$8.00 decrease in annual charges based on the average water use of 12,394 gallons.

Water conservation comes in many forms: watch your water use carefully for such things as watering lawns and gardens. Correct leaky faucets and running toilets immediately. Contact us here at City Hall for assistance of leak detection or questions about your bill. There are hundreds of ways to conserve water use. We'll provide several great tips in our upcoming newsletters!



LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The City has compiled a directory of the most frequently requested phone numbers from around the County.

Go to www.cityofleavenworth.com and click the link inside "In the Spotlight". Print a copy for yourself.



DID YOU KNOW??

1 gallon of City water costs an average household 1/6 of a penny. . .

Compare that to 1 gallon of water at your local market which may be as high as \$1.79.



Downtown Alley Beautification



The City of Leavenworth is working in coordination with the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce to encourage building and business owners in the downtown commercial district to make aesthetic improvements to their buildings, especially adjacent to alley ways, to enhance Leavenworth's pedestrian experience.

On Sunday May 5th, the City and a number of business owners participated in a sweep through the alleyways to remove a number of discarded and surplus trash items. The City is considering modifying the cardboard recycling efforts to improve the tidiness. Business and property owners are encouraged to contact the City for assistance in planning their improvement.

Gazebo Refurbishment

Just in time for MaiFest, the Gazebo was gussied up with a new roof, paint and several other improvements to open this year's festival season. The project was funded in part by a generous donation of over \$112,000 by Projekt Bayern. The work was completed in a timely manner by TEC Construction, Inc owned by Mr. Rick Rayment and design and architectural work was complete by Leavenworth native, Mr. Jeff Hoffman, AIA of BCRA Design. The total project cost was \$138,800.

Gazebo History: The original gazebo was constructed in the 70's. A major refurbishment occurred in 1989, when the structure was moved and a basement area was added.



Did You Know About Pharmaceutical Pollution?

Pharmaceuticals are commonly detected in water pollution monitoring. Some show up in drinking water, ground water, and also bio-solids brought out to our farmlands to be used as fertilizer. More widely used drugs cause higher levels of contamination and can be very hard to eliminate. There are about 3000 pharmaceutical compounds that are discharged into our waste water collection systems.

Expired or unwanted pharmaceutical medications from hospitals, households, and care facilities have been discarded of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. This method can prevent accidental ingestion, but it also causes a pollution problem in our water ways and farmlands. PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH PHAMACEUTICALS! There is a better way to dispose of these prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of National Drug Policy would prefer that we use these helpful steps.

1. Take the prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with cat litter, used coffee grounds, or vinegar.
3. Place the mixture into a disposable container, such as a sealable bag.
4. Cover up any personal identification on the original container with a black marker.
5. Place these containers in the bag with the mixture, seal them, and place them in the trash.

After these products are properly disposed, the process of treating them for minimizing environmental impact begins.



Mountain View Cemetery

Summer time and holidays brings a number of visitors out to the City's Mountain View Cemetery. We need your help in maintaining the appearance of the cemetery at the level expected by our visitors. The practice of placing decorative metal wind spinners, bird feeders, ornaments, glass and ceramic vases, artificial flowers, etc. over the cemetery plots causes a number of issues with maintaining and completing landscaping at the cemetery. These large and sometimes fragile items must be removed from the sites prior to mowing and grooming the surrounding landscape. The maintenance workers have been removing those prohibited items and placing them at the gate for retrieval. At this time we will no longer be storing the items for pickup.



The City of Leavenworth has adopted a series of rules and regulations for the use of Mountain View Cemetery (LMC 12.28). These rules and regulations are intended as a protective measure for all who use the facility. The longstanding regulations include the following:

Floral Regulations: The City has the authority to remove all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage of any kind from the cemetery as soon as, in the judgment of the cemetery superintendent, they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased. The City is not liable for floral pieces, packets, or frames in which or to which such floral pieces are attached. The City does reserve the right to regulate the methods of decorating plots so that a uniform beauty may be maintained.

Removal of Floral Frames: Floral frames must be removed from the plot site within five days by those lawfully entitled to them or they will be disposed of by the City.

Work to Be Done by City: All grading, landscape work and improvements of any kind, to include all trees, shrubs, and herbage shall be planted, trimmed, cut or removed by the City. The nature of all improvements, appearance of the grounds and buildings, and respectful observance of the serenity of Mountain View Cemetery, requires adherence to the rules and regulations by all of our visitors.

Pool Season Passes on Sale Now

The City pool is NOW OPEN. Did you know that we accept Visa and MasterCard for payment on season passes? Please visit or contact City Hall at 548-5275 for more details.

Mayor continued from page 1

So, in all likelihood, the promised "Ski Hill Drive Pavement Restoration" will actually be the first project out of the gate next spring. Guess we'll all have to put up with a few more months of dodging the low spots.

But let's talk about Pine Street. Parents, bus drivers and motorists have all complained about the fact that Pine Street has no sidewalk and it seems to be a pedestrian favorite. It's the route of choice for many kids heading for school and it's part of the Ski Hill Loop, the most popular daily route for dedicated walkers. At some point or another, many of us have had that moment of panic and terror when we've had a near miss with a bicycle, a skateboarder or a mom with a stroller on Pine Street. It doesn't help when the glare of the sun is in your eyes in the morning either.

We at the city absolutely recognize that Pine Street isn't the safest route to school or pedestrian walking trail. But



street project that we may ever take on. Why?

1. The city owns only the southerly half of Pine Street. The north half of the street is actually owned by Chelan County. That's why the city and the county take turns plowing Pine Street in the winter. This unusual ownership creates a situation of dual jurisdiction, meaning that both the city and the county would need to fully agree on any plan for rebuilding the street and be joint applicants for any grant funding requests as well as coordinating the engineering and planning and property acquisition together. It would have to be an equal priority for both entities.

2. A large portion of the property along north side of Pine Street is designated as "Wetlands", a factor which compli-

"fixing" Pine Street is perhaps the most complicated

cates any construction project by preventing the typical expansion of the roadway to allow for wider travel lanes and sidewalks, creating yet another layer of federal and state government regulations, applications and approvals.

3. The width of the existing right-of-way, (the portion of the property owned by the city and available for street use) varies greatly along the street, from 40' of width to 70' feet of width, and everything in between. This means that some property owners will be affected.

Although rebuilding Pine Street is complicated, it's not impossible, and we are working on it now. It's actually one of our highest priorities at the city, but the hoops we need to jump through are many and the cost will be high! So, meanwhile, drive slowly and carefully along Pine Street while we look for ways to improve the safety of our kids and walkers.

Cheri Farivar

