

News from your city

August 2013

Drinking Water Public Notice: Important information about your drinking water—Tests show levels of Combined Radium (-226 & -228) above drinking water standers. The City of Lewiston public water supply routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Results show that the average level was 6.5 pCi/L for Combined Radium (-226 & -228). This is above the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 5.4 pCi/L. Combined Radium (-226 & -228) occur naturally within the ground water. Some people who drink water containing Combined Radium (-226 & -228) in excess of the MCLs over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. **This is not an emergency.** You do not need an alternative source of water, such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. Home water treatment units are available to reduce Combined Radium (-226 & -228), which include water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation. It is recommended that these home water treatment units be certified to ensure Combined Radium (-226 & -228) removal. The use of carbon filters is not recommended for removal of Combined Radium (-226 & -228), as Combined Radium (-226 & -228) may accumulate in the filter over time. Your public water supply is considering methods to reduce the levels of Combined Radium (-226 & -228), which may include an alternative water source or water treatment. You will be informed when the public water supply has reduced the level and meets the standard.

For a fact sheet on Combined Radium, visit:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/radium.pdf>

Sprinkler meters. A reminder that new tiered rates are in effect for sprinkler meters. To encourage water conservation through measures that reduce water demand, water losses, peak water demands, and nonessential water uses, beginning in 2013 the same tiered, conservation rate structure used for water meters will be used for sprinkler meters. The 2013 rate for all water usage is as follows:

\$12.61 Base Rate * \$3.02/1000 gallons (0-10,000) * \$3.77/1000 gallons (10,001-20,000) * \$4.70/1000 gallons (20,001-30,000) * \$7.02/1000 gallons (30,001 +)

Those using more than 10,000 gallons will see a price increase, depending on water usage through their sprinkler meters. **Residents may request to have their sprinkler meters read more than once and/or set-up a payment plan for the sprinkler meter usage.** The benefit of the sprinkler meter remains that no sewer charges are calculated for the water through the sprinkler meter. Please contact City Hall at 523-2257 if you would like to have your sprinkler meter read more than once.



Facebook. The City of Lewiston is now on Facebook! Like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lewiston-MN/148555292004404?fref=ts>

Online utility bill payers: Payments made online may take up to 6 days to post to your water/sewer utility account. We recommend setting your payment date to the 25th of the month to ensure your payment is posted to your utility account by the due date (1st of the month). Thank you!

Trees for Front Yards: The Beautification Committee is working with Cedar Valley Tree Farm to obtain trees for residents of the City to be planted in front yards along our streets. At this time, it appears the trees will be donated without cost to the City. Several varieties are available including Swamp White Oak, River Birch clumps, Autumn Blaze Maple, Honeylocust, Paper White Birch, Linden, Black Hills Spruce, and some others.

Planting of trees will be in spring 2014 but orders need to be placed by mid-September 2013. A first-come, first-served assignment will be used for the first 20 trees that are ordered. In the event this project could be expanded to more than 20 trees, the names of residents requesting trees will be kept and extra trees distributed, again by first-come, first-served.

The Committee is working to arrange a "Planting Service." It is anticipated a "planting donation" of \$75 per tree will be necessary for such service. Trees will be "balled & burlapped" for our order and delivered to the City for distribution. Please investigate the mature height and width of these species to be sure a tree will fit your space. Search on the Internet for such details, and contact City Office at 523-2257 with your name and preferred tree type.