

# News from your city

September 2013

**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. Those using more than 10,000 gallons will see a price increase, depending on water usage through their sprinkler meters. **The Public Works Department will obtain sprinkler meters reads beginning September through October.** The benefit of the sprinkler meter remains that no sewer charges are calculated for the water through the sprinkler meter.



**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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to ensure your payment is posted to your utility account by the due date (1<sup>st</sup> of the month). Thank you!

**Emergency Siren Update.** Lewiston's new outdoor warning siren was installed in July, and Winona County Emergency Management will activate the siren in the event of a tornado warning or other emergency. The new siren has backup battery power, so it can still be activated in the event of a power outage during an emergency. The siren is activated by the county on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. for testing purposes. In the future, the county will program the new siren to sound on Saturdays at noon. When this new Saturday programming takes place, the daily noon blasts from the old siren on top of the former city hall building downtown will no longer sound. Thank you for your patience during the time the city transitioned to this new outdoor warning siren.

**Safe Routes to School.** The city has received a Safe Routes to School Grant, which is a federally funded program administered by the MN Department of Transportation. The program's focus is to make improvements to the routes children use to walk and bike to school. Lewiston's project is set to begin October 11 and wrap up about the end of October. The project includes new accessible ramps at several intersections, solar-powered, flashing crossing signals at the Lewiston-Altura Elementary School and Lewiston-Altura Middle/High School, and a new trail behind the elementary school connecting Benson Drive North to the school. The City Council approved additional trails to connect the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Country Club Drive area to the school and the trail off of Benson Dr. North. The new trails will not only improve safety to the school but will also improve pedestrian and bike connectivity between these neighborhoods. Visit the News section of the city's website ([www.lewistonmn.org](http://www.lewistonmn.org)) for more information and to view a map of the new trails.

**Wastewater Treatment System Improvements.** Residents may notice construction activity south of town by the city's wastewater lift station on County Road 106 and along Homestead Drive at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Two projects are taking place at these locations. The Lift Station Flood Proofing Project will be executed with grant funding from the MN Department of Transportation's Local Road and Bridge Disaster Relief program. The project will raise the lift station several feet and is expected to cost \$113,017. The second project, known as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, involves the installation of an equalization basin and will be funded with a \$421,000 Rural Development grant, a \$593,000 MN Public Facilities Authority grant, and a \$329,000 Rural Development loan. A new WWTF was constructed in 2001 due to the development of a sinkhole within the previous lagoon system. The city had been utilizing the remaining lagoon cell as an equalization basin for times of high flow, and the MN Pollution Control Agency would no longer permit this action. When flow rates at the WWTF exceed the design capacity of the facility, excess flow will be diverted to the new equalization basin and held until influent flows drop. Part of this project also includes an upgrade to the pumps and force main to meet design standards. Construction is expected to begin this fall. This project will provide protection against peak flows not associated with storm events and extend the life of the WWTF.