

News from your city

October 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 through October. Utility bills received in mid-November, and due December 1, will include the annual sprinkler meter base charge and usage charges.** The benefit of the sprinkler meter is that no sewer charges are calculated for the water through the sprinkler meter.

Compost Site. There have been a few instances of illegal dumping at the city's compost site south of town. The site will be closed if unauthorized materials are continued to be found at this site. The compost site is for leaves, twigs, small branches, and other organic yard debris only. Please contact City Hall, 523-2257, for more information.

Building and Mechanical/Plumbing Permits. A reminder that building permits may be purchased at City Hall. Call 523-2257 or visit City Hall for the permit fee schedule. Permits for roofing, siding or window replacement are a flat \$45.00 fee through 2013. A new fee schedule takes effect in 2014 for Building and Mechanical/ Plumbing permits. If work for which a permit is required has commenced without first obtaining a permit, the applicant will be charged double the permit fee.

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!

Convenience Fee Changes beginning January 1 for Online Payments. The city is currently charging a \$1.00 convenience fee for eCheck or credit/debit card payments through Payment Services Network (PSN). After several months with the online payment system, the figures show the cost for credit or debit cards has been more than anticipated, as much as \$3.00 per transaction. PSN has given the city the option to instate a new *Variable Convenience Fee*. The following fees will take effect with payments made on or after January 1, 2014:

- **No fee for eCheck payments (withdrawal directly for a checking or savings account)**
- **2.75% fee applied for credit/debit card payments greater than \$100.00**
- **A flat fee of \$2.75 applied for credit/debit card payments under \$100.00**

We encourage customers to take advantage of this easy-to-use method of paying water/sewer utility bills. Save an envelope and stamp and pay online at www.lewistonmn.org. If you use the eCheck method (automatic check from your bank or paying with a checking or savings account online through PSN), there will be no cost to you beginning January 1.



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