

News from your city

November 2013

Quarterly 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>

Recycle your non-working holiday lights! Throughout this holiday season, county residents may bring lights to the Winona County Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 225 W. 2nd Street anytime Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please contact Winona County Environmental Services at (507) 457-6405 for more information.

Sprinkler Meters. This month's utility bill includes the annual sprinkler meter base charge and usage charges. New tiered rates are in effect for these meters. Residents may request to have their sprinkler meters read more than once per year and/or set-up a payment plan for the sprinkler meter usage. The benefit of the sprinkler meter is that no sewer charges are calculated for the water through the sprinkler meter.

Planning & Zoning Commission Vacancies. The City of Lewiston is seeking candidates to fill up to four vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Interested candidates may apply by completing a one page *Application for City Boards, Commissions and Committees* at City Hall or at www.lewistonmn.org/CityDepartments/FormsApplications.aspx. Commissioners serve 4-year terms. Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., unless a lack of agenda items renders a meeting unnecessary. The Commission is responsible for:

- (1) Preparing a comprehensive plan for City Council adoption. Periodically reviewing, and recommending amendments to, the comprehensive plan, any ordinances and any capital improvement program the Council has adopted to implement the plan.
- (2) Providing assistance to the Council and Zoning Administrator in the administration of City Code Chapter 9: Zoning Ordinance—Building and Land Use Regulations, and the recommendation of the P&Z Commission is advisory in nature. The P&Z Commission shall review, hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the Council on all applications for zoning amendments and conditional use permits.

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.