

News from your city

January 2014

Happy New Year!

Estimated meter reads. Please note that the monthly December water usage for this billing cycle was **estimated based on November's usage**. The weather during late December and early January created icy and unsafe conditions for reading meters.

Planning & Zoning Commission Vacancies. The City of Lewiston is seeking volunteers to fill up to four vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Interested candidates may complete 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.

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

Convenience Fee Changes beginning January 1 for Online Payments. The city was charging a \$1.00 convenience fee for eCheck or credit/debit card payments through Payment Services Network (PSN). 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.

Don't let your toilet waste water! A *silent* leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of water each year. Replace old toilets with models that use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. That's a 'nice save' for Minnesota's water future. It's important for each of us to save water, every day. Low flow toilets can help with water conservation.

Follow these steps to discover if your toilet leaks:

1. Lift the lid off your toilet tank.
2. Place 3-4 drops of food coloring into the toilet tank.
3. Do not flush or disturb the toilet for one or two hours.
4. After one to two hours, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. See your hardware dealer or plumber to obtain a replacement valve or kit.

For more easy tips to save water in Minnesota, visit: www.mrwa.com/wcwaterconservtips.htm