

City of Lewiston News & Updates

March 2014

Estimated meter reads. The monthly February water usage for this billing cycle was **estimated based on past usage**. The winter weather has created icy and unsafe conditions for reading meters.

Planning & Zoning Commission Vacancies. The City of Lewiston is seeking volunteers for vacancies on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Candidates may complete a 1-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 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m., unless a lack of agenda items renders a meeting unnecessary.

Heartland Days Button Contest. The Heartland Days Event Committee is now accepting entries for the 2014 Button Contest. The winning design will appear on the official event button and may appear on select advertising. For more information, go to the City of Lewiston's website (www.lewistonmn.org) and see the information on the home page or click on Events.

Frost levels and frozen lines. Despite warmer days, frost levels may not subside for several weeks, and temperature readings should be ongoing. Frost levels have been reported as deep as 61 inches, and there have been reports of frozen service lines. If your water temperature falls to 38°F or lower, you should turn on your water to a pencil-sized stream. Also, you must contact City Hall with your name and service address. We will then verify the temperature and take a current reading of your meter. When you begin running your water due to its temperature, adjustments for the additional consumption will be made to future bills (the last 12 months' average usage). In order for this adjustment to be made, you must contact City Hall to have the water temperature verified and to inform us your water is running to prevent freezing. Call City Hall at 523-2257 with questions. Thank you!

Winona County Fluorescent Bulb Collection Event in Lewiston. Wednesday, April 9th from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Municipal Parking Lot on Harrison Street. The first 10 bulbs from residents or businesses will be accepted at no charge. Bulbs in excess of 10 will be at a cost per bulb basis.

Plug-ups of wastewater pumps. The Public Works Department has experienced multiple plug-ups at wastewater pumping stations due to rags, cleaning towels, toilet wipes that claim to be flushable, clothing, diapers, paper towels, and even mop heads. **These materials must be placed in a garbage receptacle—not the toilet or other wastewater drain.** They do not disintegrate or break down easily when flushed. Flushing these items may result in plugging your own pipes and has resulted in re-occurring failure of wastewater pumps. The hours of maintenance needed to dismantle and repair the pumps increases operational costs. Your cooperation is appreciated. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 507-208-1948 or visit "News" at www.lewistonmn.org.

Convenience Fee Changes. The following fees for customers using on-line bill paying took effect with payments made 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.