



December 2014

Calendar of Events

All Council, and Planning Commission meetings are held at City Hall.

Dec 18 Historic Preservation Commission
6:00 p.m.

Dec 25th & 26th
City Hall closed
For Christmas

Jan 1 City Hall closed
For New Year's Day

Jan 13 City Council Meeting
7:00 pm

If you are interested in paying your utility bill online, please go to www.xpressbillpay.com to sign up. All you will need is your account number. You will register a user name and password. Add your email address, and receive your statements online.



Mayor Freeman's Message

Season's Greetings to Everyone in the Millwood Community! The Tree Lighting at IEP was a great success. I really enjoyed the band and little ballerinas. What a great community we have! Thank you to all who helped to make this event happen. And a special thanks to the people at the mill who provided the tree, the lights and the gathering place.

Our city crew is ready for winter. We were able to complete the leaf pick-up on time, and have had to apply de-icer a few times. But the mild weather these last couple of weeks has been a nice break. We expect a fairly normal winter, which means several snow events that require plowing the streets. Please read the Public Works section on the second page of this newsletter for our snow plowing policies.

- Kevin Freeman, Mayor

Wood Burning

Wood burners should check their chimneys often, to ensure the smoke emissions are within acceptable levels. Smoke opacity (smoke density) may be no greater than 20%, which basically means, smoke should be barely visible, if at all. Too much smoke means the fire isn't getting enough air and the damper needs to be opened. A smokey chimney can result in enforcement action by the Spokane Clean Air Agency.

Tips for safe and responsible wood heating:

1) Have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

Wood Burning (cont'd)

- 2) Ensure that wood, kindling and other combustibles are kept a safe distance away from your device.
- 3) If your stove or insert is 1995 or older, consider an upgrade. Newer stoves are cleaner burning and much more efficient. \$500—\$1000 incentives are available for incentives are available for a very limited time to replace old wood stoves in the Spokane-area, restrictions apply.
- 4) Check current restrictions before starting your fire. Call 477-4710 or sign up at www.spokanecleanair.org to receive an email when a burn restriction is issued and lifted.
- 5) Firewood should be split and stacked 9-12 months before it is burned. Your wood pile should be covered in a way that protects it from rain and snow but permits air circulation. Dry seasoned wood burns best and give you more heat for your money.
- 6) Burn only dry, untreated firewood. It is illegal to burn anything else and doing so can cause damage to your wood burning device.
- 7) Burn only small, bright fires. Start the fire using small pieces of wood kindling and keep the fire moderately hot, adding larger pieces of split wood as required.
- 8) Watch for visible smoke coming from your chimney. Too much smoke means more air is needed to improve your fire.
- 9) Never allow your fire to smolder. If you leave for the day, let your fire go out, then start a new fire when you return. A smoldering fire results in a lot of smoke and little heat.
- 10) Don't burn in moderate temperatures. Save your wood for cold days.

Public Works Department

Drinking water and sprinkler systems

On the 12th of November the City discovered the presence of coliform bacteria in one of our routine samples. The City tested 4 additional sites the following day. After retesting the original sample location the sample came back negative for coliform but a sample from one of the other 4 sample sites tested positive for coliform probably due to a dirty screen on the tap. The system was tested again on the 17th and the sample came back negative for coliform. A notification letter was sent out to our customers on November 21st explaining about the coliform samples and what we believe happened.

As a precaution the City decided to disinfect the water system with a low dosage of chlorine through the month of December and collect 5 samples to ensure there is no coliform present in the system.

During the fall months many water systems experience coliform bacteria present in samples. We suspect that compressors blowing out sprinkler systems may be the leading cause for contamination in the water lines. All sprinkler systems are required to have an approved backflow device installed and tested annually by a certified tester.

The City takes the safety of your drinking water very seriously and as a result will be conducting surveys of all residential and commercial water services for proper backflow assembly installations. The data collected will be entered into a data base to track annual testing requirements.

We appreciate your cooperation in order to better protect your water system.

Snow Removal

This is just a reminder that the city will be plowing arterial streets after 2 inches and residential streets after 4 inches of snowfall. Please remove your vehicles from the roadways into your driveways or parking lots so that our drivers can remove the snow from the streets.

Please remove the snow from sidewalks in front of your property in order to provide safe walkways for pedestrians.

Happy Holidays!

Pets as Presents

Some things to consider

Unlike with other holiday presents, pet owners cannot just pop in a fresh battery or put the pet away in the closet after the novelty wears off. In nearly all cases, one of the parents becomes the primary caretaker, doing the feeding, walks, litter scooping and all of the other chores the children once promised to do themselves.

SCRAPS would like you to consider a few things before you add another member to your family this holiday season.

- ◆ Pets should never be an impulse purchase. Individuals and families thinking of getting a pet should research, prepare and then, when the time is right, seek a pet who realistically compliments their lifestyle.
- ◆ “Pets as playthings” is the wrong message to send to children. Pets are living beings who require substantial time and daily care, plus expenses for licensing, food, obedience training, vet bills and occasional pet sitters or kennels.
- ◆ The new owners will probably be too occupied with holiday preparations, celebrations, cooking, cleaning and guest and overall activity to give the new pet the attention he or she desperately needs. It is already a jolting adjustment for a puppy to leave his mother and littermates.
- ◆ Busy holiday time is a really hard time to keep to a proper housetraining, feeding and elimination schedule. It is vital to start housetraining on day one and establish an effective schedule on which the pup can learn to rely on his human caretakers.



Pets as Presents (cont'd)

- ◆ The activities in the household might present safety hazards and increased opportunities for the pup to get in trouble or hurt. Especially when the household is not used to having a pet around and underfoot, it can be hard to keep ornaments, decorations, tinsel, wrapping, string scissors, candles, potentially poisonous holiday plants and other dangerous items out of animals' reach.
- ◆ The holiday hubbub of guests, flashing lights, noisy toys, gift unwrapping, camera snapping, romping children, etc. can scare an animal of any age, particularly a puppy.
- ◆ It is essential to always supervise when dogs and children are together. Since it is hard to do during the big holiday, the chance of a bite increases.

Studies show that too often the gift puppy is given up within the first year, starved for training, socialization, and affection. Many are brought to the shelter because they have “behavioral problems” caused by a lack of training and supervision in the first few months.

SOLUTION: SCRAPS offers gift certificates that allow a family to “purchase” a new pet but let everyone in the family actually choose the specific animal later when things quiet down. Preparing and planning for your new family member is key to making a life-long commitment to a pet.

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