



City of Medical Lake Spring 2010 Updates

City of Medical Lake • S. 124 Lefevre St. • Medical Lake, WA 99022

www.medical-lake.org

City Hall: (509) 565-5000

Emergencies: 911

Police Department: (509) 342-1735

Crime Check: (509) 456-2233

Fire Department: (509) 565-5022

Parks and Recreation Department: (509) 565-5007

Building Department: (509) 565-5024

Maintenance Department: (509) 299-7715

Spring is Here!

Or at least very close... The City thanks everyone for their cooperation with parking during what limited snow removal work was performed this winter. The City was able to purchase a “new” used dump truck with a snow plow and sander box this winter after an older truck became too cost prohibitive to repair.

Volunteers Needed

The Medical Lake Volunteer Fire Department needs your help. Volunteerism is down in many civic and community groups, and the fire department is no exception. Please contact Fire Chief Jeff Estes at (509) 565-5022 if interested. The fire department is busy training for the upcoming summer season including trips to the Washington State Fire Training Center in North Bend as well as water rescue and boat training.

Water Conservation

Due to the lack of snowfall and recharge of the aquifer, the City will struggle with providing enough water for irrigation this spring and summer. Please conserve early and often as every bit helps. As a reminder, residential irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. for the months of June, July, August and September. Prohibiting irrigation between these hours reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation and allows the City’s water tank to fill reducing the amount of continuous hours the well pumps run. If current conservation restrictions are not enough, the City will implement additional restrictions as the weather heats up. So please, conserve, conserve, conserve.

Garbage Rate Increase

The City is completing negotiations on renewing the garbage contract with Sunshine Disposal, Inc. Residents and businesses can expect an approximate 2.5% increase over last year’s rates, effective May 1st of this year.

Animal Control

The City continues to receive many animal complaints. Barking, uncontrolled and unleashed dogs head the list. In an effort to reduce these violations, the City has requested that Spokanimal perform several patrols through the City this spring. Spokanimal has the authority to capture at-large animals, as well as write tickets for unlicensed and barking dogs.

It is every Pet Owner’s responsibility to pick up after their animals, on both private and public property.

Prohibited

Please remember the following items are prohibited within the City:

Basketball Hoops on streets or sidewalks; Pets in any City park; Unleashed pets on streets or walking trails; Skateboards on sidewalks in downtown area; Motorized foot scooters on sidewalks; Parking on sidewalks, including curb cuts.

Spring Cleaning

The City Compost Trailer, located at S. 801 Lefevre St. (along the south side of the Recycling Center) is now open for the season. Please remember that the City will not accept any branches over two feet in length and over two inches in diameter. A sign is posted at the trailer stating what is allowed.

Code Enforcement Continues

The City continues Code Enforcement per the Medical Lake Municipal Code Chapter 9.10 Nuisances. An emphasis again is being placed on junk vehicles, old appliances, litter and other debris on properties. Failure to abate the nuisance may result in a \$250 ticket.

New Picnic Shelter

The City has completed the construction of a new picnic shelter at Pioneer Park. The City continues to look for grant opportunities to upgrade the playground equipment and hopefully will complete that goal this fall.

Backflow Assembly Testing

Yes, it's that time of year again to have the backflow assembly for your automatic sprinkler system tested by a certified tester. The City maintains a list of certified testers in the Spokane County area as a resource. Backflow assemblies prevent lawn contaminants from entering the public water system, and are required by state law.

Weed Care

It is not too soon to get a jump on weeds. As the heat of summer approaches, please keep weeds mowed on your property. Dry weeds can become a fire hazard if left unattended.

Need a Building Permit?

Summer is a popular time for home improvement projects. The following is a sample of items that require a building permit: Finishing a basement, installing forced air heating and/or cooling, decks 30 inches or greater above the ground, re-roofs, automatic sprinkler systems, and hot water tanks, to name but a few. Fences do not require a permit, but please consult the Building Department for legal heights and permitted locations. The Building Inspector may be reached at (509) 565-5024.

Water Safety

Please remember to practice good water safety when enjoying the lakes in and around the area. Children should wear approved flotation devices and not be allowed to swim unsupervised. Sunscreen is an important tool when combating the sun's harmful rays, and dehydration is always a concern during any warm weather activity. *Diving from the cliffs around Medical Lake is prohibited.*

Water Main Flushing

The City Maintenance Department continues flushing water mains, and will do so throughout the summer. Flushing water mains forces out any sediments that have settled in the mains. If you experience brown water, allow the water to run for a few minutes and it will clear up. Brown water, although unappealing, is not harmful.

Please Pick Up After Your Pets

The City has received an increasing number of complaints about dog wastes being left on the sidewalks and walking trails. Please carry a plastic bag to pick up after your pet when on public property.

Questions?

If you have any questions about what's going on in the City, please contact City Administrator Doug Ross at (509) 565-5050.