



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016/17 Edition

UTILITY RATE CHANGES COMING JANUARY 1, 2017

In 2016, Council began a utility rate restructure to base all bills on actual consumption. Council's eventual goal is to move to a water and sewer system that is completely self-funded, not subsidized by property tax dollars, through gradual rate increases each year.

The next increase will be effective January 1, 2017 and will first appear on the March 31 utility bill. Residents will see an increase of \$10 per quarter to the base charge, and increases of \$0.25/m³ for water consumption and \$0.10/m³ for sewer. An average residential user with a consumption of 70 m³ will see an increase of roughly \$11.50 per month to their bill.

As these rates place greater emphasis on consumption, residents will continue to see a seasonal fluctuation in their bills from factors such as watering lawns and gardens.

Garbage Rate Decrease Coming January 1:

Council has determined that waste collection fees should also be based on the actual costs to the City for these services. Since the implementation of curbside recycling, the City has seen a decrease in costs for providing waste collection services and less material being delivered to the landfill. Effective January 1, waste collection rates will be decreased by \$3.70 per month (\$11.10 per quarter). These changes will first appear on the March 31st utility bill.

TIPPS - Tax Installment Payment Plan Service

TIPPS is a convenient service that allows you to have equal monthly payments withdrawn from your bank account for your property taxes rather than making a single annual payment and without having penalties on payments made after July 31st. For more information and for an application form, please visit our city website or visit us at City hall.

IT'S A NEW YEAR, REMEMBER TO RENEW...

Dog Licenses - Due January 31st of each year. Licenses are \$20.00 per dog, and \$40.00 for dogs that haven't been spayed or neutered. Having a current dog tag helps the City and the shelter get in touch with you if your dog is picked up. The fine for unlicensed dogs is \$50.00 for a first offense.

Business Licenses - Due January 31st of each year.

All businesses that do not operate out of a commercial property within City limits are required to purchase a license each year. This includes home based businesses and businesses located outside the City who carry on business within City limits. Rates and additional details are in the Business License Bylaw and by contacting City Hall.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Regular council meetings are always open to the public. Upcoming council meeting dates are: January 9th and 23rd, February 13th and 27th, and March 13th and 27th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, which is located on the upper floor of City Hall. Access is by the south-east door. Any submissions to go to a council meeting for **information** must be received at City Hall by noon on the Thursday before the meeting. Submissions requesting a **decision or action** of council must be received by 12:00pm on the Monday before the meeting.

E-BILLING REMINDER

If you have signed up for e-billing and have not received your utility bill by the 3rd business day of the billing month (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct), please check your filters to ensure that your bill is not in your junk folder.

If you wish to sign up for e-billing, forms are available at City Hall or on the city website under Government>Utility Billing.

SNOWMOBILES



All operators of snowmobiles within the City must have licence plates, a valid driver's licence and stay on **public roadways**. No operation is allowed before 9:00 a.m. on Sundays and after 11:00 pm evenings. For more information please visit the City website or <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/S52.pdf>

COMPOST SITE

The City Compost Site will remain open for residents to drop off Christmas trees.



COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Applications for the April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018 grant period are now available online under the Parks and Recreation page. Application deadlines are March 31st and September 30th. Funding is for projects that promote culture, recreation and sport, and is made available through Saskatchewan Lotteries.

BYLAW REMINDERS



Traffic Bylaw

Please do not park on a street that is closed for snow removal or utility work, as this interferes with the Public Works Department's ability to complete their work. Your vehicle could be also towed and you could be fined \$20.00.

Please do not drive around or move barricades that have been placed to block off streets for utility repairs. Fines for doing so range from \$50.00 - \$500.00.

Please do not park any vehicle or trailer on your front lawn if it is not in a designated parking space (i.e. driveway or gravel pad). The fine for doing so is \$20.00.

False Alarm Bylaw

The City of Meadow Lake has a False Alarm Bylaw in place that will see property owners penalized if they have more than one false Fire Department call or more than two false RCMP calls. You can take steps to prevent false alarms from happening.

1. Get your security system checked at least once a year to make sure your system is operating properly.
2. Make sure your contact list is up to date with your security company.
3. Make sure you have a secondary key holder to check on your home/business if an alarm goes off and you are not available.
4. If your alarm goes off, be sure to verify that there is in fact no emergency, and answer your phone because your alarm company will be calling you.

The penalties are: \$500 for 3rd and \$750 for 4th false RCMP alarm; and \$750 for 2nd and \$1,000 for 3rd false Fire Department alarm. These penalties are charged because Fire Department and RCMP resources are used each time a false call takes place.

Snow Removal Bylaw



Please ensure when removing snow from your property that you do not push snow onto a public

street or sidewalk. Doing so can result in a fine of \$100.00.

All Other Bylaws

The most frequently referenced bylaws are all posted on the City's website. Copies can also be obtained from City Hall. If you have any questions about bylaws or bylaw changes, please feel free to contact the City.

FOR ANY INQUIRIES:

Please contact City Hall at (306) 236-3622 and we will be happy to hear from you. You may also email your inquiries to cityhall@meadowlake.ca.

Or alternatively, you can drop us a line at PO Box 610, Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1Y5.

We can be found at 120 - 1st Street East. Our hours are 8:30AM - 4:30PM, Monday to Friday.

OTHER CITY NUMBERS:

Fire Hall.....	(306) 236-5788
Aquatic Centre.....	(306) 236-2686
Tourist Booth (closed for season)	(306) 236-4447
Lakeland Library.....	(306) 236-5396
Museum & Historical Society	(306) 234-2455
Water Treatment Plant.....	(306) 236-5831
City Shop.....	(306) 236-6240
M.L. & District Arena.....	(306) 236-6693

COMMUNITY EVENTS

For information on community organizations, events and notices please visit our website at www.meadowlake.ca. The Community Events Calendar contains information for four months at a time.

We can't post information about your event if we know about it! To have your event included on the calendar, or to update contact information on the community organizations page, call the City at 306-236-3622 or send an email to cityhall@meadowlake.ca

GARBAGE/RECYCLE INFORMATION

NORTHWEST REGIONAL LANDFILL

Hours: 8:00AM - 3:20PM Monday to Saturday

Phone: 306-236-4315

Location: 14 miles west of Meadow Lake on Hwy 55, east of Rapid View

SARCAN RECYCLING: 306-236-4420

SHKOPICH ENVIRO: 306-236-5200

