

Yreka City Newsletter

Streetlights & Bucket Truck

The Public Works Department recently acquired a bucket (boom) truck to replace a much older and broken bucket truck. The City was without a bucket truck for much longer than anticipated due to unexpected delays in the delivery of the replacement truck. This delay caused a higher than average number of streetlights to be out or malfunctioning. The Public Works team will be working to reduce this backlog over the next several months. As a reminder, Public Works typically replaces or fixes non-functioning streetlights in large groups. This allows more cost-effective and efficient repair of streetlights. It also means that when a streetlight is reported to be not functioning properly, it may take some time before it is repaired.



The arrival of the replacement truck will also allow Public Works to start a LED (light emitting diode) retrofit project for the streetlights in Yreka. Public Works will initially be testing different brands of LED streetlights in certain areas of town. The goal for this project is to eventually retrofit all streetlights in Yreka with LED fixtures. There are a number of advantages to using LEDs rather than conventional streetlights. These include: 1) lower energy consumption and costs, 2) significantly longer lifespan which reduces maintenance costs, 3) potentially reducing light pollution, and 4) improved night visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

2014 Dog License Fees

City of Yreka dog licenses for 2014 are due between January 2 and March 3, 2014. Per City ordinance, any dog that resides within the City limits must be licensed through the City of Yreka.

The Animal Control license fees for 2014 are:
\$27.00 for Spayed/Neutered (Altered) & **\$54.00** for Unaltered Dogs



Any dog owner whose dog is not licensed by March 3, 2014, is subject to a penalty of \$10.00 for each unlicensed dog in addition to the license fee.

Utility Account Set-Up Fee

The utility account set-up fee has been reduced. Beginning January 1, 2014, customers setting up new utility accounts will pay a \$75 non-refundable fee.

The City's utility account set-up fee covers the staff time and other expenses associated with setting up new accounts. These expenses include administrative costs associated with account set-up, reading water meters at the beginning and end of an account, turning water on for new customers, and other related tasks.

Important Numbers

City Hall/
Utility Billing
(530) 841-2386

Fire Dept
(530) 841-2383

Police Dept
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

David Simmen
Mayor

Robert Bicego
Mayor Pro Tempore

Bryan Foster
Councilmember

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

John Mercier
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhetta Hogan
City Treasurer

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Frozen Pipes

Each winter, City Hall receives numerous calls from residents asking what they should do about frozen pipes. Frozen pipes during cold winter months can break and cause expensive water and repair bills. To learn more about preventing or thawing frozen pipes, visit the website at ci.yreka.ca.us/utilities/frozen-pipes. You will also find information about what services the City will provide if the situation escalates into an emergency pipe breakage.



Yreka's Night of Lights

Don't miss all the fun on Friday, December 6th from 5pm-8pm. For more information, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at (530) 842-1649 or visit their website at yrekachamber.com.

Activities include:

- Tree Lighting
- Carolers & Choir Performances
- Holiday Vendors
- Smores & Roasted Chestnuts
- Visit with Santa



Leak Detection

Getting your home and landscape ready for winter? Now is a great time to check your home for water leaks. Finding and fixing leaks now will save you water, money, and prevent expensive damage to your home from rot, mildew, freezing, and settling.

Checking for leaks is easy as 1... 2 ... 3 ...

1. Turn off all water use inside and outside. Remember, even something small like an ice maker can cause the water meter to register usage.
2. Find your water meter. It is usually found in a concrete meter box in the front sidewalk or in an alley by your house.
3. Flip up the round, black cover to the water meter so you can see the dial. In the middle of the dial is a small, usually red, cogged wheel called the tattle tale. If the tattle tale is moving at all, then you may have a leak.

Please Remember!

Uncovered water meter boxes or water meter lids that are improperly placed are potentially dangerous hazards. After you are done viewing your water meter, be sure to properly replace the water meter lid immediately. The lid should not be able to move and it should be safe to walk



across. Never leave the water meter uncovered without proper supervision, and do not leave it uncovered for longer than is necessary to view the meter itself. If the lid is damaged or improperly fits the box, please notify the Public Works Maintenance Division at (530) 841-2370.

Finding and Fixing Leaks

- ◆ Check all faucets, inside and outside. Usually, it is a simple matter of replacing worn out washers.
- ◆ Check for toilet leaks. Remove the tank lid and flush a few times to make sure the water level, chain, float and valve are properly adjusted. Next, add blue food coloring into the tank to tint the water dark blue. Wait at least 10 minutes and then check the bowl for any traces of blue. If there are any traces of blue, then there may be a leak.
- ◆ Check the irrigation system. Using the irrigation controller, turn each valve on for a minute, and then turn it off. Check to make sure the valve closes completely.
- ◆ If you still cannot find the leak, you may need to call a professional with special equipment.
- ◆ Many leaks are silent, so don't rely only on your ears alone.
- ◆ Many leaks seep underground, so don't count on seeing puddles of water.

For more information about water efficiency, visit the City's website at ci.yreka.ca.us/utilities/water-leaks or call the Water Efficiency Coordinator at (530) 841-2356.