

November 2020

Town of Oakesdale

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NEWSLETTER

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LAST WATER METER READING

The final water meter reading for 2020 was Monday, October 26th. We will not read meters for the next five months due to the weather. The next reading will not happen until March 2021, weather permitting. You will be billed the basic rate of \$37.30 for 4,125 gallons or 550 cubic feet per month depending on the type of water meter you use. Customers that use above the minimum per month will not be billed for the overage until the next reading in March 2021. In January 2021, the minimum water rate will increase by \$7.50 to \$44.80.

SEWER RATE INCREASE

We have been awarded funding from Department of Ecology in the amount of \$189,000 with 50% forgiveness for a wastewater facility plan, an inflow and infiltration study required by DOE per our discharge permit and new monitoring and testing equipment. DOE informed us to pay the loan back our sewer rates were going to need to be increased. They pointed out our sewer rate has not been increased for over 30 years. The basic sewer rate is \$25 for residential and \$30 for businesses except the school and pool when in session are \$190 per month. The new rates will be effective November 1, 2020 with an \$8.00 increase per month. The new residential rate will be \$33 per month; businesses will be \$38 per month and the school and pool will be \$198 per month.

STREET & PUBLIC SAFETY LEVIES

The Town of Oakesdale has for the past several years had to depend on the generosity of our taxpayers to pass our street and public safety levies. For the 2021 tax year, we are asking for your support for the public safety levy, Proposition No. 1, is at \$14,000 which is an estimated \$0.76 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. This levy allows the Town to have fire protection and emergency medical services provided by Whitman County Fire District No.10 at a yearly contracted cost of \$14,000 per year. The street levy, Proposition No. 2, is at \$41,000 which is estimated at \$2.22 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This levy helps to maintain streets and snow removal, street sweeping, patching potholes, street lights, street expenses and maintenance of street equipment. The second street levy, Proposition No. 3, is at \$50,000 which is estimated at \$2.71 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This levy is for crack sealing and chip sealing a portion of our streets. We appreciate your support on these special levies.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are super excited to announce expanded hours at the Oakesdale Library! Starting the week of November 2nd, the Library will be open regular hours on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the new hours on Wednesday will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This wonderful opportunity to serve our community better comes from the generous support of The Palouse Wind Farm and its owner, Novatus Energy. Thank you, Novatus Energy! Also happening this month at the Library is a Thanksgiving coloring contest for all ages. Stop by or call the Library to get your coloring page and return it by Wednesday, November 18th to be entered into a prize drawing. Storytime packets continue to be available weekly with alphabet themed worksheets and activities for little ones ages 2-5 years old. Have a great month and Happy Thanksgiving! You can reach Shelly at the Library at (509) 285-4310.

SNOW REMOVAL

Yes...it is time for us to start worrying about that white stuff that falls from the sky! The Town's snow removal equipment is ready for winter and we are asking for your help in keeping the streets and alley ways free from obstacles for our snow plows. If you can, please park your vehicle(s) off the pavement of the street and/or alley way for snow removal. We realize that not every street can be clear of vehicles, but where possible, please move your vehicle(s) off the pavement of the street so it will allow access for our snow plows. Thank you!

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Bill Auvil to the Town Council. He replaces Dolores Haley's position. We had great candidates to chose from and appreciate Shelly Elkins and Pete Baljo's interest in serving on the council.