February 2012

Recycling……..what’s next?

You might not believe this, but I actually get residents who come up to me and tell me that they really like my newsletter articles and yes, a few of them are not even relatives! Now before I lose you and you throw this away…please read on.

Beginning this spring West Point is proud to offer a “General Recycling Program”. You may think, this program has already started with the new green can…let me explain. General recycling is a completely different program from our existing “Green Waste” recycling that we introduced last year. Why did the City Council decide to offer this program in West Point? Long gone are the days when you take your trash down a dirt lane and fill in a low spot. We also can’t burn trash in barrels like my grandpa did. In the waste industry, they talk about diverting waste to limit, as much as possible, the amount of trash that goes to the landfill each year.

A general recycling program is an opportunity to discard paper, plastics, cardboard and other items twice a month. These items are then sorted, bundled and eventually recycled. The same hauler that picks our black and green garbage cans will be the hauler for the general recycling program, which will be in a separate blue container. As you read this, I assume some of you will be very interested, and others might be wondering why we are trying to overwhelm the residents with multi-colored trashcans…keep reading. A year and a half ago, before we started the green waste recycling, we had about half of our residents who had two black garbage cans and they were paying about $20.50 a month for them. By simply replacing the second black can with a green and blue can, we pay just slightly more per month (see “Cost Information” below), AND we can all do a little bit to save the environment and space in the landfill.

How are we going to implement the program? The City Council has decided to go with an “opt out program” similar to what we did with the green waste program. Residents who choose not to participate will be given a period of time when they can inform the City if they wish to not participate. If you are not interested, it is very important to “opt out” during the specified time, because unlike the green cans, there will not be another chance to “opt out” after the deadline.

I will be the first one to admit that when I first heard about this “general recycling” program, I wasn’t sure it was the right thing to offer to our residents. However, after studying the information, I am 100% on board and believe it provides a great benefit. After implementation, our regular waste (the majority of the time) will go to the Waste Energy Facility, our green waste will be recycled into mulch/wood chips, and our plastics/paper will be recycled. Our diversion rate from the landfill will be extremely high, (in other words, we will be sending very little to the landfill) all for only a couple of dollars more per month, and some might actually even save a few dollars. Please, keep an open mind as we get more information out on this program, then you can make the best choice for your home and family.

Cost Information

General Recycling (blue can): $4.75/month (price will be $4.25 if our participation rate is over 70%)

Current cost for 2 black cans: $20.50

Cost for 3 cans (black, green and blue): $22.25

Confused yet? Don’t worry, as I mentioned more information will be coming, stay tuned!

Utility Billing Information

Paperless Billing

As a reminder, you can enroll in paperless billing through Xpress Bill Pay. So if you pay online and don’t want to receive your bill in the mail, just login and click the “Paperless Billing” button to change your preferences. Please note that going paperless will mean that you will no longer receive the City Newsletter either, so you’ll have to check the City website to download a copy or to read it online visit www.westpointcity.org.

New Utility Statements

You may have noticed a new look to your utility statement last month. In an effort to save money on postage and printing, we have outsourced our statements. The new statements look very similar to what you are used to seeing to help eliminate any confusion. There are a couple of new features we hope you will find beneficial as well. The first and most obvious is the 13 month graph showing water usage. If you are on Hooper Water this will always be blank as we don’t have your usage information, sorry! The other feature you will only see if you have a potential water leak at your residence. The words “Possible Water Leak” will appear in big bold letters. Our system will input this on your statement if your meter runs for 24 hours consecutively. We hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions please call us 801-776-0970!
Snow Removal & Parking

West Point City’s Code Enforcement Office wants to ask all residents that live on corner lots with trees that hang into the street to please make sure their trees are trimmed for the upcoming snow plow season. The plows need to have a 10 foot clearance. Also, there is no overnight on street parking from November 1, 2011 until March 1, 2012.

Kindergarten Pre-Registration for the 2012-2013 school year!

Lakeside and West Point Elementary are looking for next year’s kindergarten students. If your child or the child of a neighbor or friend will be five years old on or before September 1, 2012 please contact your school.

Lakeside Elementary: 801-402-2900
West Point Elementary: 801-402-2750

“AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

February 22, 2012
From 12-4 @ West Point City Hall
The cost for the class is...
$12.00 for AARP Members
$14.00 for Non-Members

Each class member will receive a class booklet, and a certificate for you and your insurance carrier.
Call to reserve your spot 801-776-0970

“Why I Love My City” Essay Contest

All essays and applications are due to City Hall by 5pm February 10th.
One winner will be chosen from each division: Elementary Jr. High High School/Adult
Winners will be announced at City Council February 21st @ 7pm.
Applications can be picked up at City Hall or found on the city’s web site www.westpointcity.org

Youth Council Corner

This month’s theme is... “INTEGRITY”
“It’s more important to do the right thing than to do things right.” -Peter Ducker

This month the YC enjoyed a anti-drug presentation with Deputy Roundy, Deputy Shuler and their search dogs. They continued working on collecting signatures in their Anti-Tobacco efforts to stop dissolvable-nicotine products from coming into Utah.
This month they also visited Capitol Hill for Legislator Day.