

# APRIL NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2010

## CITY OF CHELSEA

### Upcoming Events:

- *Farmers Market ~ Saturdays in downtown and Wednesdays on the Chelsea Hospital Grounds*
- *Chelsea Community Gardens—Contact 475-0631 to secure a garden plot*
- *May 1 ~ County Clean-up Day 9am-2pm at Chelsea Transfer Station*
- *May 4 ~ Chelsea School Board election ~ City residents vote at 500 Washington St. , you may contact the City Clerk for an absentee ballot*

## SPRING LEAF PICK-UP

The City is providing a spring leaf pick-up to assist property owners with removal of leaf mulch that was used over the winter or those leaves that didn't get raked last fall. Please put leaves in either the brown kraft bags, in garbage cans or raked into piles on the lawn extension. **This pickup will take place the week of April 12th. City crews will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, the 12th of April and go around the City only once.** Your cooperation with this schedule is appreciated.

**BRUSH PICK-UP** continues to be the second week of each month.

Upcoming brush pick-up dates are: April 12th, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, 2010.

Guidelines for brush pick-up in the City are:

- Brush/limbs larger than 1" in diameter and less than 6" in diameter of any length should be stacked in low piles to avoid blocking the view of traffic.
- Smaller brush/twigs should be placed in the brown recyclable kraft paper refuse bags or a garbage can to allow for easier handling.

City crews are very appreciative of residents who prepare your brush according to these guidelines. Thank you.



*Please remember to drive safely, especially in school zones during times when children are going to and from school.*

### Inside this issue:

Leaf & Brush Pickup	1
Utility Rates	1
Orange Garbage Bags	2
Water Hydrant Flushing	2
Bicycle Licenses	2
Ask Zoning Inspector	2
Quarterly Utility Bills	2

## UTILITY RATE ADJUSTMENT

City utility users will see a water and wastewater rate increase in your utility bill beginning with your next utility bill. Electric rates were unchanged. Sewer rates reflect an increase of 18% and water a 3% increase. City Council held a public hearing on March 9th and determined through the cost of service study that was conducted that a rate increase was needed to provide for balanced funds in these areas. A copy of the utility rate schedule which was adopted by City Council at their March 9th meeting is available on the City website [www.city-chelsea.org](http://www.city-chelsea.org) or at the City Office.

## APRIL NEWSLETTER

# WATER HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City Water Department will begin flushing water hydrants on the 19th of April. This flushing will occasionally cause the water to have a rusty appearance due to iron sediment. Should discoloration occur, run the cold water for several minutes to clear your water lines. You should also flush your toilets once or twice. When doing laundry, check the water condition/color prior to starting. If you should experience discolored water, please run through a rinse cycle to flush out the line. This water hydrant flushing will continue throughout the City for the next several weeks. Thank you for your cooperation.



*Bicycle licenses are available at the City Office for \$2.00*

# ORANGE GARBAGE BAGS

The City has recently placed a replacement order for orange garbage bags. Due to the increased cost of petroleum, the City has had to make some adjustments in order to retain the price. Residents will see a slight size reduction in the bag size - 33 to 30 gallon. Bags will be delivered on a roll as opposed to the single bag that our previous vendor provided. All of these adjustments were made to maintain the \$2.50 per bag cost.

# CITY UTILITY STATEMENTS MAILED QUARTERLY

As a cost saving measure, the City will begin sending quarterly utility statements in September, 2010. The last *monthly* paper invoice will be mailed in June 2010. After June, you will be sent a paper statement every three months unless a paperless option was selected. The new statement format will provide three months of billing activity, including monthly payments made and greater detail for additional charges (such as turn off/on fees).

There are several ways to continue to obtain monthly billing information at no charge:

- View your monthly billing detail on line, visit City website, [www.city-chelsea.org](http://www.city-chelsea.org), selecting Utilities and the 'view your utility account' link on that page.
- Use that link and choose 'Go paperless' to have a monthly statement e-mailed to you monthly.
- Call or visit the City Office to inquire regarding your monthly amount due.

Should you require a printed statement, the City will be glad to provide you one at a printing/ mailing charge of \$2.00. The City will continue to provide you with the same level of monthly utility service and will require monthly payment of services provided. You can send an estimated monthly bill amount or contact the City Office to set up a formal payment plan.



*Sign regulations*

# ASK THE ZONING INSPECTOR

**QUESTION:** I am planning on having a garage sale this spring, can I put up signs on utility poles in the City?

**ANSWER:** Section 6.05 A of the City Zoning Ordinance states, "The tacking, posting or otherwise affixing of signs or posters....on the walls of buildings, barns, sheds, on trees, poles, posts, fences or other structures is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by this ordinance." Putting nails or screws into public utility poles also creates a hazardous situation for children should they grab onto the pole. Signs placed on poles will be removed by City staff and repeated offenses may result in a civil infraction citation (ticket) being issued.