

August 2011



Woodland Hills Days

Friday and Saturday, the 9th and 10th of September

Mark your calendar for the fun event. The co-chairs for this year's Woodland Hills Days are Rebecca Black and Patti Meuter. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, contact Rebecca at 423-3131 or Patti at 423-4042.



Elections

This year we have three City Council positions open for election. The four year term of service is expiring for Jerry Johnson, Steve Carter and Bob Fisher. The following individuals have declared their candidacy for the expiring positions:



Bob Fisher

Jim Hughes

Dorel Kynaston

Hilarie Orman

Ray Walker



Utah County Fair 2011

AUGUST 17th – 20th

Spanish Fork Fair Grounds

City Recorder:

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Send News Articles To:

news@woodlandhills.cc

Deadline for submitting articles for the Woodland Hills newsletter is the 20th of each month.

August Happenings

- *City Council Meeting, Wednesday, August 10th, 7 pm*
- *City Council Meeting, Wednesday, August 24th, 7 pm*



Sheriff's Blotter *by Deputy Butters*

From 06/15/11 to 07/15/11 Utah County Sheriff's Deputies responded to 28 call for service in Woodland Hills. These calls included:

6 Animal Problems	3 Suspicious	2 Fraud	2 Abandoned 911
2 Motorist Assists	2 Citizen Contacts	2 Agency Assists	1 Traffic Accident
1 Theft	1 Welfare Check	1 Juvenile Problem	1 Fire
1 Parking Problem	1 Drugs	1 Fireworks	1 Alarm

For Emergencies Please dial 911. Please report all crimes and suspicious activity to Utah Valley Dispatch at 801-851-4100.

What you should know about fire sprinklers *by Mike Lauritzen*

I contacted a local fire sprinkler installer for advice regarding fire sprinkler maintenance. Here is what he had to say:

- Have your sprinkler system inspected every two to three years. The antifreeze in the system needs to be checked. It can become diluted over time and may not be providing adequate protection from freezing temperatures.
- Sprinkler heads should be checked for leaks, corroded gaskets and general condition. He says they have found sprinkler heads that needed to be replaced because they had been recalled for defects. They have also found sprinklers that had been painted and were no longer reliable.
- The flow alarm bell should be checked.
- The backflow preventer should be tested to ensure antifreeze can't leak back into your household water supply system.
- The water supply should be checked for pressure and flow.



Our Woodland Hills Fire Chief, Val Wilding, says: "The fire department can do a (non-certified) visual sprinkler head inspection and test the water flow and alarm. Most systems are very simple and these tests will expose most failures."

Is it time you had your system inspected?

What you should know about your household water pressure reducing valve (PRV) *by Mike Lauritzen*

Each home in Woodland Hills should have a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on the downstream side of the water meter. The PRV controls the water pressure to your household to protect and extend the life of your water supply system and to limit wasted water. This is especially important in Woodland Hills because of the varying supply pressure resulting from living on the side of a hill. There are 25 PRVs under the streets of Woodland Hills. They step the water pressure down to a reasonable level as the water flows down the hill. Water pressure increases .43 pounds per foot of drop. To see what that means to you, let's look at an example. Let's say you live 100 feet below the nearest city PRV that supplies your house and the pressure coming out of that PRV is 100 psi. Your water pressure will be 43 pounds higher than the pressure at the PRV or 143 psi. If the city's PRV fails, you could end up with very high pressure coming through your meter. If all of the plumbing on your side of the meter (home, lawn sprinklers, etc.) is not protected by a properly functioning PRV you could experience expensive underground or above ground water leaks, flooding and damage to water heaters, water softeners, and other items connected to the water system. It is your responsibility to

protect plumbing on your side of the meter from pressure damage.

I contacted a local plumber and asked his advice regarding PRV maintenance. He said a PRV should not be expected to function properly for more than three or four years. I suggest you test yours before you replace it. To test your PRV, you will need to measure the pressure after the PRV. If you don't have a pressure gauge already installed in your plumbing system, you can buy one from your local hardware store that can be attached to a hose bib. The Uniform Plumbing Code specifies 80 psi maximum household water pressure. 50 to 60 psi is a nominal household range. Consult with your plumber to determine what is best and safest in your home. If your pressure needs to be corrected, call a plumber or you can find video instructions online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDxx_od_LL0. If your PRV needs replacement and you are reasonably handy, you can purchase a replacement from a plumbing supply store and do it yourself. Otherwise, contact a plumber.



Typical city PRV



Typical household PRV

Interesting Note: According to Google Earth there is a 1,200 foot change in elevation from our water storage tank to the mail boxes. If we had no pressure reducing valves in the city, the pressure at the roundabout would be 516 psi.

What you should know about your septic system *by Mike Lauritzen*

To get information about septic systems I contacted Lanty Ross at the Utah County Health Department. He is the program manager over wastewater. Here's what Mr. Ross told me:

"The county doesn't have any actual "requirements" for maintenance of septic systems. However, there are two main things that every homeowner with a septic system must be aware of. First, of course, septic tanks must be pumped periodically. The pumping interval is not necessarily the same for every household, primarily because different people have different habits, and also household size varies. We recommend pumping the first time after about 3 to 5 years. If there is very little sludge in the tank at that time, then the interval can be longer before pumping again. Of course it is very risky to put it off very long because if the sludge builds up in the tank until it flows out into the drain field it can mean a very expensive repair not to mention a huge mess.

The other concern that homeowners must be aware of is the problem of putting things into the tank that shouldn't be there. Most household wastes that are put into the septic tank are almost completely decomposed by the bacteria, leaving behind a small amount of sludge. Things that the bacteria cannot decompose should never be put into the tank. Things that commonly find their way into septic tanks and cause problems include disposable diapers, cigarette butts, condoms, feminine hygiene products, food wrappers, toys, items made of metal, wood, plastic, etc. Chemicals that kill bacteria can be a problem if used in large quantities, although normal household use is not usually a problem. Normal amounts of bleach and other common cleaners are not a problem for the tank, although a large dose at once could kill many bacteria and the tank may require some time to recover. Without the active living bacteria, the tank cannot function properly, and eventually the drain field would fail, causing surfacing sewage, backups, odors, etc.

People often ask about septic tank additives. The professional response is invariably the same: it has never been shown that additives are beneficial to septic tank health and function. The bacteria that are necessary in tanks are already present naturally, unless killed by large quantities of bleach, etc. Therefore the use of septic tank additives is not advisable, and can in some cases actually be harmful to the septic systems by destroying soil structure, etc."

Road Re-surfacing

Woodland Hills has an ongoing road maintenance program that includes the micro-surfacing you have seen going on around town. Micro-Surfacing is a relatively new technology. The surfacing material is comprised of sand and gravel, polymer modified emulsion, water, portland cement, and aluminum sulfate. This year's project will be completed at the beginning of August. All of our streets are now on a routine maintenance program although a few sections are beyond repair and will need to be replaced.

