

# March 2024 City News



## Employee Spotlight ON

### Seth Kennedy



**Meet the city staff that serve you!**

**Department:**

Sanitation

**Date started at city:**

May 21, 2021

**Favorite part of working at the city:**

“The guys I work with.”

**Hobbies/activities**

hunting, fishing, working in my shop.

**Fun Fact about Seth:**

Seth has been a member of the Fosston Fire Department for 12 years,

## Sanitation Rate Increase

The City of Fosston today announced its new rates for the sanitation service. The new rate for regular residential customers will be \$15.00 per month, an increase of \$.67. Residential customers 65 years and older will be eligible for a senior rate of \$14.00 per month. The new rates will go into effect on the March 1, 2024 billing. Commercial rates will also increase and will be based on the volume of garbage each commercial customer generates. The minimum commercial customer rate increase \$1.33 per month and will be \$20.21 per month.

According to City Administrator Cassie Heide, factors in the decision include employee support costs, fuel costs, increasing repair & maintenances costs and rising capital costs for new equipment.

City Administrator Heide noted that despite the rate increase, Fosston Sanitation Service is still a great value for its customers. Fosston

Sanitation service is still priced at just forty nine cents per day for residential customers, providing customers with not only weekly pickup of trash, but also weekly pickup of leaves, brush and other debris.



### Coming Events:

- City Council Meeting—Monday, March 11, 7pm
- Community Concert—Saturday, March 9 - Ventures
- City Wide Rummage Sales—June 7 & 8

### February Fact or Fiction



**Fiction:** Only people who live in Fosston can purchase memorial stones at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

**Fact:** Anyone who has a loved one who served in any branch of military, past or present can purchase a veterans memorial stone for \$200. The stones are installed once or twice a year depending on the number of stones that are being ordered. Contact city hall for more information. 435-1959.

## City Bus

The City of Fosston operates the transit system in town. For only \$1 the bus will pick you up and take you anywhere in town you need to go.

The bus operates Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm. and on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm

Call 218-435-1969 for a ride.



## Minnesota Cold Weather Rule— Protection Ends April 30th

If you have trouble paying your utility bills during the winter season and have not made payment arrangements with Fosston Municipal Utilities, you may be subject to disconnection on May 1st. If you need help paying your natural gas or electric utility bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, contact Inter County Community Council at **218-796-5144** or Polk County Social Services at **435-1585**. If you are not eligible to receive assistance, please contact Fosston Municipal Utilities at **435-1737** prior to April 26th to discuss a payment schedule.



## NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2019 MN passed the "Hands Free" law. The law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone. We have recently noticed more violations, particularly drivers holding their phone in front of them with their phone on speaker, yes this is a violation. Most of the infractions we are observing, the vehicles involved have Bluetooth, but the driver has not taken the time to set their phone up to their vehicle's Bluetooth. It only takes a second of distracted driving to seriously injure someone.

Every winter, Law Enforcement receives numerous complaints from concerned citizens about pets being left outside in the cold weather. We have had an exceptionally warm winter but there is no doubt winter temperatures will return. Your furry friends are susceptible to the cold just like we are so make sure to have adequate warm shelter for your pet and put them inside when the frigid temperatures return.

By ordinance, your pets do need to be registered with the city and you do need to provide up to date shot records. Also please note, your pets need to be always secured on your own property and cannot leave your property without being on a leash. We are a pet friendly city, but no one wants their neighbor's dog running in their yard and leaving unwelcome deposits.

Did you know the police department does Vacation House Watch? Whether you are going on vacation or just going to be away from your property for a few days let the Fosston Police Department know and we will watch over the property until you return. This allows you to have peace of mind while enjoying time away!