

From Shire President John Daw



COUNCIL has been preparing to adopt Shire of Mundaring's 2019-20 budget at its next Ordinary Council Meeting on 11 June. In mid-July residents will receive their rates notices.

While it's fair to say that nobody enjoys paying rates, they form an integral part of the income used in Council budgets to deliver the many services and infrastructure enjoyed by our local community.

While people have a general understanding as to why they need to pay their rates, there is some confusion as to how they are determined. It is a common misunderstanding that rates are solely determined by the value of your property.

People wrongly assume, especially when property prices are falling, that if the value of their house has decreased then so should their rates, when this is not the case.

Another misconception about rates is that they should align with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This index does not accurately reflect the cost pressures that apply to local government. The CPI is an inflation measure calculated by considering the price movements of items determined to represent the cost of living to households.

Like all councils, Shire of Mundaring's cost structure is impacted by more factors than the cost of living. These include reductions in federal funding and cost shifting from state government, to name a few factors.

In our Shire, the rates notice includes the Emergency Service Levy which is collected on behalf of the State Government. There is also a waste charge, which is based on full cost recovery for the service. All add to the pressure on rates.



This year, I encourage all ratepayers to consider the factors that have impacted our 2019-20 budget.

I urge anyone who is not clear on how the budget was determined to contact their local ward Councillor. All contact details can be found on Shire of Mundaring's website under 'Council'. Alternatively, click the 'Rates' tab, also on the website to read more about how rates are calculated.

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 11 June 6.30pm

On the agenda this month:

- Adoption of Annual Budget 2019/20
- Corporate Business Plan 2019/20 - 2022/23
- Third Party Appeal Rights - Local Governments

The meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, 7000 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring. View the agenda at the Administration Building, Shire libraries or website.



Seeking Sponsorship for Rates Incentive Draw

ARE you a local business wishing to support the Shire of Mundaring's early rates incentive program?

Each year this program offers a range of prizes to our community for paying rates in full on time. Supporting businesses that donate prizes have their company logo and prize listed in the rates notice which is sent to approximately 15,600 local ratepayers.

If your business would like to be part of this incentive program, please contact Andrea Douglas by COB Friday 21 June 2019 on 9290 6608.

Calling All Hills Seniors!

YOU'RE invited to attend a fun and informative session at this year's LiveLighter Seniors Activity Information Day, jointly presented by Shire of Mundaring and Seniors Recreation Council of WA (SRCWA).

The event will be held at the Brown Park Community Centre on Wednesday 3 July from 10am-1.30pm. Attendees will get the opportunity to connect with other seniors while having a go at a variety of activities. A number of local groups, volunteers and service providers will also attend to network with seniors and provide information through stalls and displays. The SRCWA will have a variety of activities on offer to try such as Xbox Kinect, seated hockey, shuffle ball, mini golf, quoits and (weather permitting) pole walking. Participants are encouraged to wear flat shoes, so they can also have a go at the carpet bowls. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please note that RSVP is essential for this event.

If this event interests you, please call Dawn Yates (SRCWA) on 9492 9773 or email dawn.yates@srcwa.asn.au to secure your place.



Celebrating NAIDOC Week

JOIN us for the Shire's annual NAIDOC Week celebration at 10am on Monday 8 July at the Shire Administration Building, 7000 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring.

Local Noongar woman Cindy Nelson will give a Welcome to Country followed by the raising of the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

Enjoy a leisurely walk to Mundaring Sculpture Park and take part in a cultural art activity at the yarning circle before indulging in some bush tucker muffins. Contact Rachael Sarich on 9290 6718 or email events@mundaring.wa.gov.au for more information.

