

The City Minutes

News for Loretto City Residents March 2009



City of Loretto Newsletter

The City Minutes newsletter is published four times per year at the beginning of the following months: March, June, September, and December. Local civic groups hosting a city-wide event may have the event published in the newsletter, and/or placed on the city website. If your group would like to use this opportunity, please provide the event information to the city no later than 2 weeks before the publication. Contact Chris Goulet at Loretto City Hall, 479-4305.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Crime Alert Program

The following article was posted February 2nd, 2009 by the City of Medina on their website. This also applies to the City of Loretto, as the Medina Police Department patrols the City of Loretto.

Crime Alert Network

Starting in 2009, the Medina Police Department will be establishing a crime alert network for the residents and business owners of Medina. The Department is asking that you send an email to Medina Police if you are interested in being on the list for any crime alert information.

In the recent past, Medina had a suspicious male, driving a van, approach a child and offer him a ride home. In another area of the city, Medina has been experiencing automobile break-ins and burglaries. Medina Police desires to instantly notify residents, by email, of particular a crime or crimes occurring in their neighborhoods. This information would be put out directly to residents to take necessary precautions and assist Medina Police in reporting any suspicious activity.

If you are interested in this program, please send an email to anne@ci.medina.mn.us. In the subject line put "Crime Alert Network". Please include your name, address and phone number in your email. Your email address will be added to the list for the crime alerts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Medina Police Department at 763-473-9209.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Holiday Train Donations

The 2008 Holiday Train event brought in donations of 2,000 pounds of food and \$9,964 in cash donations to the Hanover Area Food Shelf. Thanks to everyone who donated! Due to the icy weather, only an estimated 500 people attended the arrival of the train.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

Here are the results of the annual City of Loretto Holiday Lighting Contest for 2008. The judging was done by officers from the Medina Police Dept. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to this year's winners:

- 1st Place: Paul & Cindy Spaulding—180 Hillview Ln
- 2nd Place: Joe & Barb Koch-185 Hillview Ln
- 3rd Place: Jeff & Patricia Leuer-170 Crestview Ln

Each of these winners received a prize of a "Free Oil Change" from West Hennepin Auto & Tire Inc. Awards were presented at the January 13th, 2009 City Council Meeting. The Best Neighborhood Display Award goes to the Highlands of Loretto. This neighborhood wins bragging rights, until the 2009 event!

oooooooooooooooooooo

Winter Parking Reminder

Loretto residents are reminded that winter parking rules are in effect from November 1st through March 31st. On-street parking is prohibited on all city streets from 2:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Vacation Home Checks

If you are planning a trip out of town, the Medina Police Department provides a 'House Check' to Loretto residents. Call the Medina Police Dept. at 763-473-9209, and have your house placed on their list. The police will check your home by driving up the driveway and walking around the house while you are gone. If any problems are noticed, they will notify your contact person.

oooooooooooooooooooo

City of Loretto
259 N. Medina Street
P.O. Box 207
Loretto, MN 55357

763-479-4305 (phone)
763-479-2685 (fax)
Website: www.ci.loretto.mn.us

City Hall Office Hours:
Monday 9:00-2:00
Wednesday 9:00-2:00
Friday 9:00-2:00
Council Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. as follows:
March 10, April 14,
May 12, June 9, 2009

Mayor
Barry Andersen

Council Members
Clark Lohr
Jeff Tepfer
Jeff France
Brenda Daniels

City Clerk
Cindy Patnode
cpatnode@ci.loretto.mn.us

Utility Clerk
Chris Goulet
cgoulet.loretto@yahoo.com

City Treasurer
Joyce Spurzem

Public Works
Jeff Leuer
jleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us
Rich Arens

Parks
Herb Koch



Hydrant Flushing

City water hydrants will be flushed on the following dates this year: April 8th, June 10th, August 12th and October 14th. Flushing will begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish by 11:00 a.m. Residents may experience low water pressure during this time. The flushing process may loosen rust sediments in the water lines, so please check your water prior to doing laundry.



Rate Study

A copy of the full Rate Study is on Loretto’s website: ci.loretto.mn.us. Click on “Utilities”, then on Utility Rate Study. You will need Adobe Reader to access this file. Rate increases are due to the continuing increases in the cost of supporting the infrastructure for Loretto.

Comparison Rates	2008	2009
Water	\$25.00 for the 1st 4,000 gallons, \$6.00/each add'l - 1,000 gallons	\$26.00 for the 1st 4,000 gallons, \$6.50/each add'l - 1,000 gallons
Waste Water / Sewer Based on Dec, Jan, Feb, water usage by account	\$20.00 for the 1st 4,000 gallons, \$4.00/each add'l -1,000 gallons	\$24.00 for the 1st 4,000 gallons, \$5.00/each add'l -1,000 gallons
Storm Water	\$11.00	\$11.00
Garbage	Varies due to size of container	Varies due to size of container
Recycling & Organics	5.00 per month	5.00 per month
MN Dept of Health	\$6.56—this a <u>one-time</u> annual fee per year, required by the MN Dept of Health.	\$6.56—this a <u>one-time</u> annual fee per year, required by the MN Dept of Health.

Water Conservation Tips

- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running water from the faucet until it’s cold.
- Do not let water run while washing dishes, fill the sink instead.
- Do not let water run while brushing teeth.
- Check toilet to be sure water doesn’t continue to run into the tank after it has finished flushing. Check for other toilet leaks and make repairs.
- Install low-flow showerheads and sink faucets or a sink faucet aerator.
- Consider installing Demand (tankless) Water Heater to conserve water and energy

Loretto Is a Watershed Area

What is a watershed? The surface area of yards, open land, streets, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots are all watershed areas. These areas collect water from rain, snow, as well as yard sprinkling, car washing etc. This water runs off the surface and makes its way into our local ground water, streams, lakes and marshes. What ever we put on these surfaces will eventually end up in our water. Please consider these tips to prevent further contamination of our water supply:

- Water your lawn early in the morning to minimize evaporation, and never water faster than the ground can absorb the water. Most Minnesota lawns will stay healthy if they receive 1”-1.5” of water per week, either through rain or irrigation. Infrequent, deep waterings are more beneficial to lawns and plants, than light frequent waterings.
- Next time you water, place 3 to 5 empty tuna cans at varied distances from the sprinkler. The time it takes to fill the cans is about how long you should water your lawn.
- Cut grass no shorter than 2 inches to reduce evaporation and promote deep root growth.
- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the storm sewers by sweeping your sidewalks after mowing.
- Consider installing drip-irrigation systems around trees and shrubs.
- Fertilize your lawn with care. Reduce your use of yard chemicals. Choose natural pest/disease control alternatives.
- Reduce the amount of concrete or asphalt in your yard.
- Use natural mulches around plants to conserve moisture.
- Collect rain in rain barrels for watering plants.
- Use shut-off nozzles at the end of your hoses, to prevent water from continuous running.
- Wash your cars, bikes and other items on the lawn to prevent water run off. Use a bucket of water for washing, and use the hose for quick rinses only. Leaving the water running for 20 minutes while washing a car can use up to 100 gallons of water.
- Do not dump chemicals of any kind in your driveway, yard or down the storm sewers.

Loretto is located in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed, please visit the following website for more information: www.pioneersarahcreek.org.

Other websites to visit regarding water conservation:

www.metrocouncil.org/environment

www.epa.gov/watersense

March 16-20th is “National Fix a Leak Week”



Spring Cleanup in Loretto

Donations of Used Goods

Residents may contact one of the following organizations for clothing, housewares and certain other household items for drop off or pickup.

- ARC (pickup): 612-866-8820
- Bridging (drop off and pickup—household items only): 952-888-1105
- Goodwill (drop off): 763-420-8013
- Salvation Army (pickup): 612-332-5855
- Vietnam Vets (drop off): 651-778-8387

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

For Hennepin County Residents

Thursday – Saturday April 30th–May 2nd, 2009

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. all three days:

Independence City Hall
1920 CR 90 in Independence

Accepted Materials:

- Adhesives (flammable or petroleum based)
- Aerosols (pressurized or containing product)
- Auto wastes (fuel additives, starter fluid, waxes, but **no** motor oil)
- Household batteries (AA, C, D, rechargeable, etc.)
- Cleaning solvents
- Consumer Electronics (computers, TVs, radios, VCRs, etc. **Limit 5 of the same type**)
- Drain cleaners
- Driveway sealers
- Fluorescent and HID lamps (**limit of 25**)
- Fuels (gasoline, kerosene, diesel)
- Mercury items (thermometers, thermostats, etc.)
- Rechargeable appliances (cordless tools, weed whips, etc.)
- Paint (latex and oil based) or paint thinners and solvents
- Pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, etc.)
- Photographic and hobby chemicals
- Vehicle lead-acid batteries (cars, boats, etc.)
- Wood preservatives
- Pool chemicals

Styrofoam and Packing Peanuts

Packing peanuts and other packing materials may be recycled, along with other Styrofoam products. Please visit the website for more information: www.RethinkRecycling.com and click on “Styrofoam”.

Loretto City-Wide Garage Sale

May 6-9, 2009 Wednesday–Saturday



A great weekend for garage sales, as the guys will be gone fishing.

City-Wide Cleanup Day

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Randy’s Sanitation will pick up most of your household items free of charge, with these exceptions:

- NO Tires
- NO Batteries
- NO Paint
- NO Appliances (including water heaters)
- NO Fluorescent bulbs
- NO Microwave ovens
- NO Construction debris

Note: There is an extra charge for furniture and mattresses. Call Randy’s at 763-972-3335 to get a price for pickup. Please have all items curbside by 6 a.m.

Randy’s Leaf, Grass Clipping & Brush Pickup

Tuesday, May 19th, 2009

Randy’s Sanitation will pick up your bagged yard leaves, grass clippings and brush, tied in 3’x3’ bundles (*please no sticks larger than 3” diameter.*) This is a FREE service available to all Loretto residents. Please place items curbside by 6:00 a.m.

Household Battery Recycling

M, W, F from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Loretto City Hall

Depleted batteries that are ready to be discarded may still contain a residual charge. Certain precautions must be taken to prevent batteries from short-circuiting. Please package batteries using the following guidelines:

- Place each battery into an individual plastic bag. This will prevent contact between terminals or other metal surfaces during storage and transport. OR
- Place non-conductive electrical tape over the battery terminals.

Phone Books

By law, unwanted phone books must be recycled. You may place a maximum of 2 phones books at a time in your Randy’s Recycling bin. It is possible to stop receiving delivery of unwanted telephone books. If you would like to stop receiving both White Pages and Yellow Pages books at your address, please go to the following links:

<http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org>

<http://www.dexknows.com>





RETHINK RECYCLING™

Interesting Facts About Recycling

From the New Website:

www.RethinkRecycling.com

- The Twin Cities generate enough waste to fill the Metrodome 11 times each year.
- Recycling one can saves the equivalent of 6 ounces of gasoline.
- Recycle 1 can and you save enough energy to run a computer for 3 hours.
- Recycle 1 plastic bottle and you save enough power to run a 60-watt light bulb for 6 hours.
- The 36 billion aluminum cans thrown away last year are worth \$600 million as scrap.
- Minnesotans recycle over 2 million tons of cans, bottles and paper every year.
- Minnesota recycling reduces emissions equal to taking 2.3 million cars off the road.

It's time to Rethink Recycling!

In the Twin Cities area, you can help the environment more than you may realize. So where can you learn about recycling, composting, reducing waste or disposing? The answer is RethinkRecycling.com. Formerly GreenGuardian.com, Rethink Recycling helps you make smart choices about recycling or disposing of just about anything you have around your home or business. You'll also learn how to become a smarter shopper, get answers to FAQs, find resources and learn about upcoming events. As the "go-to guide" for waste management and recycling in the Twin Cities, there's something for everyone at RethinkRecycling.com.



The Digital Television (DTV) Transition: What You Need to Know

On June 12, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the digital television (DTV) transition.

If you have a new television with a digital tuner or subscribe to a pay service such as cable or satellite, you can already receive digital broadcasts. However, if you watch television using "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna, you must take one of the following actions to receive digital broadcasts:

- Connect your television to a digital-to-analog converter box.
- Subscribe to a pay television service such as cable or satellite.
- Buy a digital television (a television with a built-in digital tuner).

If you purchase a new television, be sure to recycle your old one! Most TVs and computers contain a cathode ray tube (CRT), which contains two to eight pounds of lead. It is illegal to place electronic products containing a CRT in the garbage.

Recycling options for televisions and other household electronics available to residents in the Twin Cities metro-area include:

- **Government recycling programs:** Hennepin County takes electronics free of charge from households at drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington. Quantity limits apply.
- **Take-back programs:** Some manufacturers and retailers will take back your old electronics for recycling.
- **Garbage haulers:** Some haulers pick up electronics for recycling.
- **Recycling companies:** You can drop off your old electronics at a recycler. Some recyclers pick up electronics for recycling.

For more information on Hennepin County's drop-off facilities and how to recycle electronics, call 612-348-3777 or visit hennepin.us/electronics. To find additional electronics recycling options, visit RethinkRecycling.com (formerly GreenGuardian.com), your go-to guide for waste and recycling in the Twin Cities. For more information on the DTV transition, visit www.dtv.gov.



Randy's Recycling Dates

March 10th & 24th

April 7th & 21st

May 5th & 19th

June 2nd, 16th, 30th





2009 Bike Path Construction Update

The Three Rivers Bike Path, connecting Hassan Park to Baker Park, will begin construction this summer through Loretto. The project will be administered by Hennepin County. You will notice tree removal and the utility poles being relocated through Loretto in April. The actual Bike Path construction is anticipated to begin July 1st. At this time, a water main replacement (on County Road 19 at Railway Street East) and fire hydrant replacements will also take place. Portions of the city will experience short periods of interruption of services (water and electricity). We will try to inform residents beforehand by placing it on our website. You can also ask to be placed on our email listing for any city alerts we put out over the internet. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact cpat-node@ci.loretto.mn.us.

The Council and staff have negotiated with Hennepin County to work on one block at a time. This should help with the congestion and minimize the impact for our residents and businesses. Loretto's portion of the project is expected to be completed by the Loretto Funfest on Sept. 19th. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Jeff Leuer, Public Works for the City of Loretto, at 763-479-4305.

The County is working with Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) to coordinate the timing of replacing the tracks to coincide with the water main replacement. The water main is anticipated to have the road closed for a period of 3 working days. The replacement of the tracks is anticipated to have the road closed for a period of 10 working days. Since there are variables on when CPR can shut down the tracks, they have not informed us of those dates as of yet. They anticipate a 3 week notice.

oooooooooooooooooooo

CT RideNet

CT RideNet provides transportation service to the residents of Loretto. You can make arrangements for rides to medical appointments, shopping, work or more. They have operators available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide you with transportation options in our area, including public, private, and volunteer services. Call CT RideNet at 800-450-6100 for more information. Or visit their website at www.CTRideNet.com.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Need help with taxes?

AARP Tax-Aide helps low- and middle-income taxpayers file their personal tax returns. Volunteers are trained to assist in filing tax forms and basic schedules, including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Taxpayers with complex returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance. Call the Delano Senior Center 763-972-0574 for a reservation.

LMCC Looking for Volunteers

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission is looking for two people to volunteer for the Commission to represent the City of Loretto. The commission oversees cable-tv issues regarding the City of Loretto. If you would be interested in serving on the commission please call City Hall (763-479-4305). The Commission meets quarterly at 5:30 p.m. at the LMCC office located at, 4071 Sunset Drive, Spring Park. They will meet on the following dates in 2009: February 19th, May 19th, August 18th, and November 17th.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Loretto Residents Get Organics Out of the Trash and Give Back to Nature

The city of Loretto had its first anniversary of the organics recycling program in the fall of 2008. Tons of organic materials have been collected for composting and recycling waste into a valuable soil amendment.

Organics make up nearly 25 percent of the trash that's thrown away. Organics include all food scraps, such as meat, bones and dairy products; and food-soiled paper, such as paper towels, napkins, plates, milk and juice cartons, pizza boxes, and boxes from frozen and refrigerated foods.

The material is delivered to Resource Recovery Technologies in Empire Township, where it is composted. The finished compost is used in landscaping and road construction projects to replenish soils and reduce soil erosion.

Taking part in the residential organics recycling program benefits the community as a whole, as well. The wide variety of materials that can be composted offers a real opportunity for residents to make a positive environmental impact.

At an Organics meeting on 1/8/09, Hennepin County Representatives were very impressed with the results from Loretto's participation in the program. The participation rates have increased and approximately 65% of our residents have been organically recycling every week compared to about 30% at the beginning of 2008. Loretto residents can be very proud of their role in preserving space in landfills! Keep up the great work and please continue to separate your recycling and organic recycling.

This project was made possible through a grant from Hennepin County. To learn more about how organics recycling works, visit www.ci.loretto.mn.us or call 763-479-4305.

City of Loretto

259 North Medina Street

P.O. Box 207

Loretto, MN 55357

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 53

LORETTO, MN

Late Baseball/Softball Registration

If you missed the sign-up dates for youth T-Ball, softball and baseball registration, late registration is available at city hall or you can download a registration form at

www.lorettoathletic.org. Summer ball is open to boys and girls ages 5 through 16.

The Loretto Community Athletic Association offers T-Ball and Near Ball (coach pitched), baseball and softball. There will a 2009 LCAA fundraising event "Breakfast at Dobo's Café" on Sunday, March 15th, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.



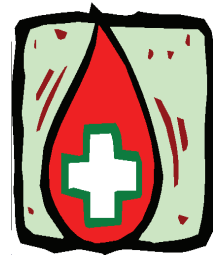
2010 Census is coming to Loretto

Every 10 years a census of our population is taken. The census count is used to determine our community and state's representation in Congress, state legislatures, and local government—it's also used in distributing about \$300 billion annually in federal funding of public programs in: education, community health-care, public transportation, housing and community development.

Workers Wanted: People are needed for temporary work to conduct this census in our communities. The pay is competitive and expenses are reimbursed. Please call 1-866-861-2010 or visit the website at: www.2010censusjobs.gov - for more information.

Memorial Blood Center Drive Planned

The annual Loretto Lions Club Blood Drive is schedule for Thursday, April 30th, 2009 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Academy in Loretto. Any person 17 and up, in good health and weighing at least 110 lbs (16 yrs old with parents' permission and weighing at least 130 lbs) is eligible to donate. If you would like further info to determine your eligibility to donate, please call the Memorial Blood Center in St. Paul at 888-448-3253. **Donors are urgently needed!**



Please call Roy or Rosie Spurzem of Loretto (763-479-1153) to make an appointment to donate at this blood drive. You should eat a good meal within the 6 hours before donating, and have had adequate sleep in the past 24 hours.

Note: Roy & Rosie have been organizing the annual Lions Blood Drive for more than 20 years. They are wondering if someone in Loretto would like to volunteer their time to take over the annual duty. If so, please call Roy or Rosie at the number above. Thank you to the Spurzems for all their years of wonderful service to this event!