



Newsletter

December 2023

Volume XXVIII No. 4

HOLIDAY TRAIN 2023



The Canadian Pacific Railroad will once again be bringing their Holiday Train to Loretto. The train is scheduled to arrive on **Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 4:15 pm.** During the stop there will be musical performances aboard the train by Dallas Smith and MacKenzie Porter.

Beginning at 3pm that day, local businesses, community groups and volunteers will be hosting holiday activities on West Railway Street. This will include rides on the kiddie train, photo ops with roaming characters, festive music and bonfire as well as free hot chocolate, cider and cookies. Wear your winter holiday hat and enjoy the activities of the day!

Road closures begin at 2:00 pm. Shuttle service is provided from 3-5:30 pm to and from the following parking lots: Loretto Athletic and Recreational Complex and Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Watch for signs and officers directing drivers on the day of the event. Limited handicapped parking will be available, please request the assistance of an officer. A poster and map of the event are available on the city's website.

It's all about helping those in need—please bring donations of cash or non-perishable food items. 100% of the cash and food donations go directly to our local food shelves.

The annual CP Railroad Holiday Train has become a beloved tradition in many communities and an important fundraiser for their food shelves. Last year, the Holiday Train event in Loretto brought in over \$21,000 and 1,500 pounds of food due to the generous community support. The Hanover Area Food Shelf is the primary participant and beneficiary of Loretto's Holiday Train event. Five percent of the cash donations are also shared with Delano Helping Hands and RiverWorks Food Shelf in Rockford.



MATCHING DONATIONS

21st Century Bank will match up to \$1,500 AND Eagle Aluminum will match up to an additional \$2,500 in donations! Stop in at the bank to make your contribution for the match. Please make checks payable to "Hanover Area Food Shelf".

City of Loretto
279 N. Medina Street
Suite 260
P.O. Box 207
Loretto, MN 55357
763-479-4305

Website:

www.ci.loretto.mn.us

City Hall Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
8 am–4 pm
Friday 8 am–2 pm

Mayor

Kent Koch
kkoch@ci.loretto.mn.us

Council Members

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bdaniels@ci.loretto.mn.us

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mpalmer@ci.loretto.mn.us

Public Works Director

Jake Leuer
jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us

Public Works Maintenance

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Recycling News



How to Dispose of Used Cooking Fats, Oils & Grease

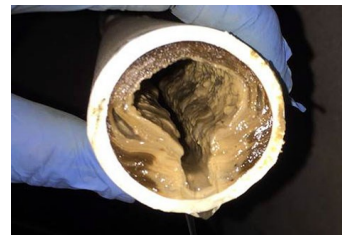
As we approach the Holidays, protect water quality by properly disposing of all the fat, oil, and grease (FOGs) waste from your favorite holiday foods.

What are FOGs?

FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease—all things that do NOT belong in storm drains or any kind of drain, including your kitchen sink.

Why are they a problem?

When poured or washed down the drain, FOG builds up on pipe walls, restricting the flow of wastewater from our homes. Over time, FOG leads to blockages that result in overflows into our homes or onto our streets, down storm drains and into local waterways, all posing a serious risk to public health.



What can I do about it?

1. Let FOGs harden in a sturdy, lidded disposable container, store it in the freezer until trash day, then place it in the trash to be taken to a landfill.
2. Scrape FOGs from dirty dishes into the garbage using paper towels or spatula before washing.
3. Use a catch basket in the sink and routinely empty food particles to the trash or compost.



WINTER COAT DRIVE

Eagle Aluminum is collecting gently used or new winter coats, mittens & hats that will be donated before Christmas to those most in need. Please drop off your items in the big red box in front of their building at 50 Medina Street South. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.



recycle
EVERYWHERE



www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere

Upcoming Recycling Dates

December 12th & 26th

January 9th & 23rd

February 6th & 20th

Public Safety

STAY INFORMED

Loretto has two different notification lists you can sign up for to stay informed:

Informational Alerts

Sign up with your email address to receive information about city council meetings, civic events, election information, and more. Call City Hall or email Mary to get signed up: mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us.

Public Works Notifications

There is a separate Public Works alert system that we use to notify residents and business owners of issues like watermain breaks, road closures and hydrant flushings. You can sign up for a phone, email or text message (or any combination of these.)

To sign up for the public works notifications, or to create an account for an existing user, follow the link below. Once your account is setup, you'll be able to manage your alert preferences as needed.

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=loretto>

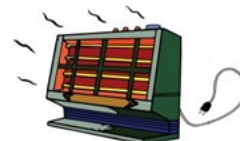
This link can also be found on our website: <https://www.ci.loretto.mn.us/>

Contact City Hall if you have any questions or issues about your sign ups.

FIRE PREVENTION-FROM WEST SUBURBAN FIRE DISTRICT

Winter fire prevention is crucial during the colder months. Safeguarding your home and loved ones is key to a safe Holiday Season.

To maintain a safe environment, it's essential to follow a few key guidelines. First, exercise caution with heating sources, such as space heaters. Ensure they are placed at least three feet away from flammable materials and equipped with safety features like automatic shut-off.



Regularly maintain and inspect your heating system, which includes furnaces and fireplaces, to minimize fire risks. When using a fireplace, employ a sturdy screen to contain sparks and have your chimney professionally cleaned to remove creosote buildup.



Be cautious in the kitchen, stay vigilant while cooking and keep flammable items and children away from the stove.

Consider using flameless LED candles as a safer alternative to traditional candles. Never leave a lit candle unattended.



Have fire extinguishers available in your kitchen, garage and on each floor, and make sure everyone in your household knows how to use them.

Ensure your smoke alarms are functioning correctly, with monthly tests and annual battery replacements. Carbon monoxide alarms, strategically placed near bedrooms and on each level of your home, offer an added layer of safety.

Finally, develop and practice a fire escape plan with your family, complete with two exit routes from each room.

These comprehensive measures will help you create a safer and more secure environment during the winter season.



Happy Holidays from West Suburban Fire District!

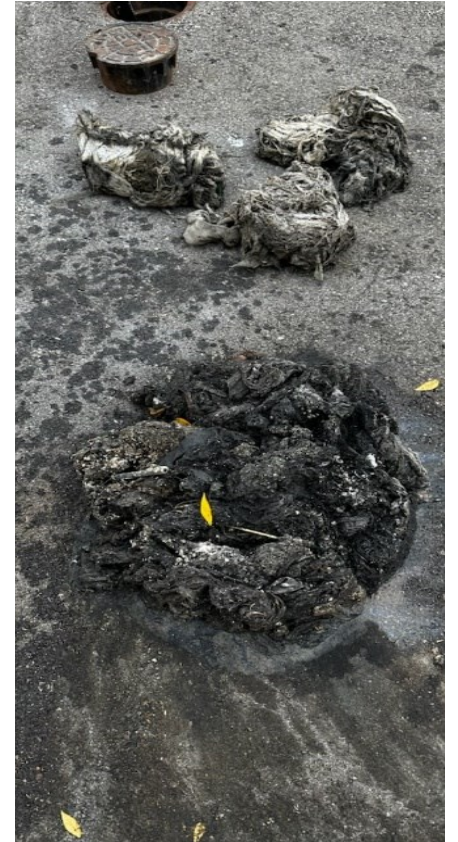
Community Corner

RISING UTILITY RATES - WHAT CAN YOU DO

Are you frustrated with the rising utility rates each year? So are we!! As the costs to operate the water, sewer and wastewater systems rise, the city must raise utility rates to generate the necessary revenue to cover these costs. While some of this is due to inflation and is out of your hands, there is something YOU can do to help.

DO YOUR PART

Every year, sewer system equipment is damaged and broken by RAGS. The photo you see here shows piles of rags that were pulled from Loretto's pumps at the sewer lift station. Some of the rags in the photo are the notorious "flushable" (NOT FLUSHABLE!!!) disposable wipes. Some are CLOTH RAGS that people are flushing down the toilet. They make their way to the city's lift station pumps and ruin the equipment. Both our pumps were damaged beyond repair and are being replaced - and it isn't cheap.



What can I do about it?

- SPREAD THE WORD. The more people who are educated, the better. If everyone in Loretto only flushed toilet paper and human waste down the toilet, operational costs will go down.
- Educate every member of your household. The ONLY things that should get flushed are toilet paper and human waste.
- Educate your staff. As a business owner, you're paying the bills. Make sure your employees know that cleaning cloths, paper towels, etc. should NEVER be flushed. The ONLY things that should get flushed are toilet paper and human waste.
- Post signs in your bathroom about what not to flush. Make it fun!
-



PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM OR MONETARY DONATION

9815

21st Century Bank will match up to \$1500 and Eagle Mouldings will match up to an additional \$2500 in donations!

Stop in at the bank to make your contribution for the matches.

Activities start at 3 PM. Come festive in your best winter holiday hat and bring a donation for the food shelf.



CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN

IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LORETTO
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 3-5 PM

- HOLIDAY TRAIN ARRIVES AT 4:15 P.M.
- MUSICAL PERFORMANCE FROM 4:30-5:00 PM BY DALLAS SMITH AND MACKENZIE PORTER
- KIDDIE TRAIN RIDES AND SANTA'S MAILBOX
- SERVING FREE HOT CHOCOLATE, CIDER AND COOKIES
- PHOTO OPS WITH HOLIDAY CHARACTERS
- FESTIVE MUSIC AND BONFIRE



PARKING & SHUTTLE: LORETTO BALL FIELDS AND STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH.
 SHUTTLE COMPLIMENTS OF STAHLKE BUS SERVICE. OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE AND AT INTERSECTIONS TO HELP GUIDE GUESTS FIND PARKING, INCLUDING LIMITED HANDICAPPED PARKING.
WWW.CI.LORETTO.MN.US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dates to Note

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Loretto City Council meetings are held at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the City Council Chambers, 279 Medina Street North, Suite 260.

Next Council meetings: December 12, 2023, January 9 and February 13, 2024.

Please watch the City website and bulletin board for meeting change notices.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC MEETING

The Loretto City Council will hold its Truth in Taxation public meeting **Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7 pm** to discuss and adopt the 2024 Budget for all funds. The proposed levy for the General Fund is \$586,700 (collectible in 2024), a ten percent increase over last year's levy. In addition to the General Fund levy, a Debt Levy of \$55,213.97 is required to service the 2021 Street Project G.O. Bonds. The total proposed tax capacity-based levy is \$641,913.97. The final levy will be voted on at the December 12 meeting and certified to your property taxes—divided amongst all property owners in the city. You should have received your proposed property tax statement in the mail around the middle of November that shows your proposed taxes for 2024.

The City Council will also discuss setting the 2024 Fee Schedule, including considering increases in park field use and Depreciation fees and water, sewer, and stormwater rates.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this hearing. Written and oral comments will be accepted. Contact Mary at City Hall with any questions or comments.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Republic Services offers Christmas tree pickup service. The fee is \$26 per tree. Trees may be placed curbside by 6am on Wednesday, January 3rd or Tuesday, January 9th. Resident's using this service will see the charges on their January services utility bill, received in early February.

WeCAN

WeCAN comes to City Hall on the second Monday of each month from 2 to 4 pm.

Upcoming dates: December 11, 2023, January 8 and February 12, 2024.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN

Wednesday, December 14th, 2023, 3-5pm on Railway St. West. See page 5 for details.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Medina Police Department, Medina City Hall, Loretto City Hall & 21st Century Bank of Loretto will be drop off sites for the KARE 11 2023 Toys For Tots Drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the drop off sites by Thursday, December 7th. Call 763-473-9209 for more information.



LETTERS TO SANTA

Don't forget to mail your letter to Santa. The mailbox is on the northwest corner of Medina Street North and Railway Street West.



Preventing Stormwater Pollution

We all live in a watershed – the area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, river, wetland, or even the ocean – and our individual actions directly affect it. In Loretto, our rain and stormwater runoff flow to Lake Independence and Lake Sarah. Each newsletter will include guidelines you can follow to help make a difference in the quality of our local waters.

WINTER POLLUTION PREVENTION PRACTICES

Employ these simple practices during winter weather to prevent ‘stormwater pollution’ (a major cause of water pollution in urban and suburban streams.)

- * Shovel snow before applying snow melt and deicing products.
- * Shovel snow onto lawn and vegetated areas where melting snow can soak into the ground.
- * Limit the use of deicing chemicals on sidewalks and driveways since they can readily flow into storm drains and streams as ice melts. When deicing products dissolve, they seep into ground water and flow into streams where they can impair water quality, diminish soil fertility, damage plants, and harm aquatic life.
- * Use environmentally-friendly alternatives, such as clean clay cat litter, sand, or fireplace ash, especially at low temperatures. This avoids the need for products that can be harmful to the environment.
- * Take a ‘Snow Day’ -- work at home or postpone errands on snowy days avoiding trips on the road to help your community clear roads safely, limiting the need for excessive road salting and deicing.
- * Sweep up after snowmelt -- Sweep and dispose of residual sand, grit, and litter to help prevent accumulation in streets; clogged storm drains; and sediment pollution in streams.
- * Direct or route snowmelt runoff into nearby gardens and vegetated areas before applying salt & deicing products.



Illicit Discharge is defined as any direct or indirect discharge of anything other than storm/rain water into the storm drains. This is against city code and should be reported immediately to **City Hall 763-479-4305** or email **Jake Leuer** at jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us. See City Code Section 412:30 for details

City of Loretto

279 N. Medina Street, Suite 260
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 Loretto, MN 55357

Phone: 763-479-4305

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HOUSE CHECKS

Message from the Medina Police Department: If you plan on being out of town, please call the police department and put your house on the house check list. We will check your house while you are out of town. If there are any problems, we will contact you. To sign up for a house check, call the Medina Police Department at 763-473-9209.



WINTER REMINDERS

Parking Restrictions: Winter parking rules are in effect from November 1st through March 31st. On-street parking is prohibited on all city streets between the hours of 2 am and 7 am, except for Medina Street, where parking is prohibited between 2:30 am and 6:30 am year-round. If at all possible, the city plow crew would appreciate having no vehicles parked on City streets when snowfall occurs during the daytime.

Snow Removal from Sidewalks: Loretto’s city code requires that property owners clear the snow from their sidewalks within 48 hours of a snowfall.

Snow Removal: It is unlawful to move snow onto or across any city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statute. (Minn. Stat. §160.2715)

Fire Hydrants: If you live near a fire hydrant, please keep it clear of snow and ice.

Garbage Carts: Please keep carts at least 2 feet away from the curb to allow for snow removal.