

The City Newsletter

News for Loretto City Residents

Volume XVII, No. 4

December, 2012



Local Election Results:

For Mayor (2-year term): Kent Koch
 For City Council (4-year term): Cari Girk & Henry Hank Pepin

Thank you to our outgoing council members, Clark Lohr and Jeffery France for their service to the City of Loretto!

Holiday Train 2012



The Canadian Pacific Railroad will once again be bringing their Holiday Train to the City of Loretto. The train is scheduled to arrive in Loretto on Thursday, December 13th, 2012 at 4:15pm. During the stop there will be musical performances aboard the train by Juno award winning **Tracey Brown** and roots music sensation **The Claytones**.

Beginning at 3pm that day, local area businesses and volunteers will be hosting holiday festivities on West Railway Street. This will include a visit from Santa, rides on the kid-die train, hay wagon rides, and free hot chocolate and cookies. Road closures will begin at 2:30 pm, with shuttle service and parking provided at the Loretto Softball Fields and Saints Peter and Paul Church parking lot. All activities are free - please bring donations for the food shelves!

Last year, the Holiday Train event brought in over \$21,000 and 2400 pounds of food because of the great community support. This year's donations will once again be shared with food shelves in Hanover, Rockford, Delano and Maple Plain.

PLEASE BE SURE
 YOUR CHRISTMAS
 LIGHTS ARE ON FOR
 THE
 ARRIVAL OF THE
 HOLIDAY TRAIN!



The Canadian Pacific Railroad recently announced it will match all funds raised at the local community events for the Holiday Train, up to \$250,000. These matching donations will be provided to *Feeding America* whose member food banks continue to provide aid to those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

For more information on this announcement, check out the Holiday Train information on the city's website under **Updates & Events**.

City of Loretto
 279 N. Medina Street
 Suite 260
 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 8:00-2:00
 Wednesday 8:00-2:00
 Friday 8:00-2:00

Mayor
 Kent Koch
kkoch@ci.loretto.mn.us

Council Members
 Clark Lohr
clohr@ci.loretto.mn.us
 John "Archie" Neumann
jneumann@ci.loretto.mn.us
 Tom Pedersen
tpedersen@ci.loretto.mn.us
 Jeff France
jfrance@ci.loretto.mn.us

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

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

Office Assistant
 Mary Kaye Schneider
mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us

Recycling News

New Recycling and Organics Programs Launched

Starting on November 1st, the city's new single-sort recycling and Blue Bag Organics programs went into effect. There have been many questions as we begin these new programs. Please feel free to call City Hall at 763-479-4305 with any questions or problems you're having.

You may also contact Randy's directly at 763-972-3335 or custserv@randyssanitation.com. If you haven't signed up for the Blue Bag Organics program yet, it's not too late.



Upcoming Recycling Dates

December 11th & 26th*

January 8th & 22nd

March 5th & 19th

April 2nd, 16th & 30th

**Indicates a change in normal pick-up due to Holidays*

Unwanted Holiday Lights

You can recycle your unwanted holiday lights by simply putting them in your single-sort recycle carts. Randy's Sanitation allows this recycling year-round.

Christmas Tree Pick-up

Christmas trees will be picked up by Randy's on Tuesday, January 8th and 15th. Trees must be placed at the curb by 6:00am the day of pick-up. There will be a charge of \$3 for an "unbagged" tree and \$6 for a "bagged tree". The charge will appear on your February utility bill.

XXX
XXX

Recycling Tips

Do you have items in your home that you need to get rid of and you don't know what to do? There are resources available to you if you know where to look! Hennepin County has information on their website titled "**A-Z How to Get Rid of it Guide**". Go to their website at www.co.hennepin.mn.us and click on the "Residents" tab. You'll find the link for the guide on the right side of the screen under "Online Services".

There are also companies out there who will take your items for free. One such company is **Quality Used Appliances & Recycling Center, LLC**. They will pick up your used appliances for free, including computers, water softeners, and refrigerators. If recycling 5 or more appliances they will remove your old TV's for free. If less than 5 appliances, TV's cost \$10 per TV. For more details, call them at 763-323-9995. They are located at 9539 HWY 10 NW, Ramsey, MN 55303. Their website is www.quality-used-appliances.com.

City of Loretto staff obtained information for this resource by researching various directories. It is not an endorsement of the business listed, nor does it imply that the business is in compliance with applicable laws. Any omissions or inaccuracies are unintentional. For additional listings, we recommend the local telephone directory. **ALWAYS CALL FIRST TO VERIFY INFORMATION BECAUSE POLICIES FREQUENTLY CHANGE.**

This resource is intended for households only. The information does not pertain to wastes from businesses or organizations.

Did you know you can recycle your used batteries right here at City Hall? Just stop in during office hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am-2pm) and deposit your batteries in our green container.



Upcoming Meetings

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

The Loretto City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7 p.m. to discuss and adopt the 2013 Budget for all funds. The proposed levy for the General Fund is \$337,695. This is the amount that gets certified to your taxes and divided amongst all property owners in the City. You should have received your property tax statement in the mail during the third week in November that shows what your taxes will be for 2013. A potential rate increase for the water fund will be discussed at the public hearing.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend the public hearing on 12/11/12 at 7 p.m.

City Council Meetings

Loretto City Council meetings are held at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. The next Council meetings: December 11th and January 8th.

The **Loretto Redevelopment Committee** has three seats that are set to expire on 1/31/2013. The committee is open to accepting applications from people interested in serving on this committee.

The focus of the group is on redevelopment efforts fronting along County Road 19 from St. Peter Street to West Railway Street. Many accomplishments have already been achieved by this group including an award of a \$36,000 grant.

If you have an interest to serve on this committee, please contact Cindy Patnode at Loretto City Hall 763-479-4305 or cpatnode@ci.loretto.mn.us. Letters of interest are due by Wednesday, December 26, 2012. The committee is open to residents of Loretto or business owners in Loretto.

All meetings are held at City Council Chambers at 279 North Medina Street, Suite 260. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 763-479-4305 or cpatnode@ci.loretto.mn.us.

Loretto Welcomes New Business

The following is a biography submitted by Chris Stoltenow, a new business owner in Loretto.

CAS Tax & Accounting Services, Inc., 239 Medina Street Suite A, Loretto, MN 55357.

Phone 763-479-3462

Email chris@castaxmn.com

CAS Tax provides a personal approach to the accounting, bookkeeping, payroll and tax preparation needs of each client. My firm provides tax preparation for individuals/families and businesses including sole-proprietors, partners and shareholders. I provide various accounting functions including onsite bookkeeping, and various payroll options, including payroll tax return preparation for business. In almost 15 years in the public accounting field working for other CPA firms in neighboring communities, I have met many great business owners, professionals, and individuals! Located next to Elite Dry Cleaners, the opportunity has allowed me to open my own doors to work closely with the people and business owners in the local community as well as continuing to work with those in neighboring communities. My husband and I have lived in the western suburbs for many years and moved to Greenfield over 7 years ago to start a family. We now have two small children who attend Delano schools. We love the community, neighbors, and have made many great friends here.

Stop in to CAS Tax, say hello, and tell me about your business and or family or call to schedule an appointment. I'll even come to your office.





Preventing Storm Water Pollution



All About Storm Drains

We tend to believe that the water, which runs down the storm drains on your street, goes to a waste treatment plant that cleans it up before sending it on to the rivers, streams and wetlands in the area.

This is not the case! Everything that runs down the storm drains goes directly into the local waters - the same water our children play in, our pets swim in, and our neighbors fish in.

Help to spread the word. Storm drains are not an outdoor garbage disposal, but a path to our water supply. Remember storm drains send rain water, along with any trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet waste or cigarette butts that are in its path, directly to your nearest water source. Please, clean up areas where you see trash.

Responsible Pet Ownership

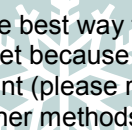


Dog waste pollutes our street and waters, and creates a health hazard. It is also against city code (#600:20 subdivision 6) to leave dog waste lying about the public areas of the city.

Easy steps to being a responsible pet owner:

- Bring a bag when walking your dog and clean up any messes your dog makes.
- Dispose of waste properly in the toilet or trash.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently.
- Pick up before cleaning patios, driveways, and other hard surfaces. Never hose pet waste into street or gutter.

The best way to dispose of waste is to flush it down the toilet because it gets treated at the wastewater treatment plant (please remember to remove plastic before flushing). Other methods include seal in a bag & put in trash.



Did you know.....

Since the early 1950's our metro area waters have become increasingly salty. Chloride levels have risen so high that many metro area creeks are now considered unhealthy.

Chlorides harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, damage buildings, and corrode vehicles, roads and bridges. Too much salt results in costly damages and serious environmental consequences.

Storm drains carry excess water from streets and homes to nearby lakes and rivers; that makes your property a waterfront property. During the cold winter months, salt that is applied to our streets eventually flows into our lakes and rivers. Help keep our waters clean this winter by following these few simple steps.

Before the Storm

Apply a liquid de-icer before snow storms to prevent snow and ice from building up. However, this is not a substitute for shoveling; it just makes it more effective.

TIP: You can make your own liquid de-icer! Mix 2 cups of hot water and one cup of salt.

Shovel that Snow!

Shovel, snow blow, plow and/or sweep. These are all effective measures that will remove snow and minimize ice build-up.

Less is Better

When applying salt, if there are left-over crystals still visible, the salt has been over applied. The left-over salt can be swept up and reused or disposed of in the trash.

Temperature Matters

At low temperatures salt begins to become less effective; check your product for more details. When the temperature falls below 15 degrees F consider using sand as an alternative to salt.

Miscellaneous News

Winter Reminders

Winter Parking Restrictions

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 between the hours of 2:00am and 7:00am, with the exception of Medina Street, where parking is prohibited between 2:30am and 6:30am year-round.

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 Plowing

It is unlawful to plow snow onto or across ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statute.

Fire Hydrants

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

Garbage Cans

When placing your garbage cans at the curb for pick-up, please keep them at least 2 feet away from the curb to allow for snow removal.

City Clerk Resigns

The City of Loretto regrets to announce the resignation of City Clerk Cindy Patnode. Cindy has served the city since 2006 and will be greatly missed.

The city has been accepting applications for City Clerk and will be starting the interview process during the first week of December. They hope to have a recommendation ready for the full council at the December 11th council meeting.

Toys For Tots

Loretto City Hall and 21st Century Bank of Loretto will be local drop off sites for the KARE 11 2012 Toys for Tots Drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to either of the above drop sites by Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Officers of the Medina Police Department will be delivering the toys to KARE 11.

For more information about Toys For Tots, please visit KARE 11's website at www.kare11.com.

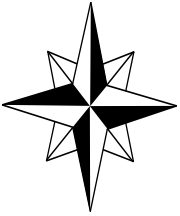


Busting Energy Myths (by Xcelenergy)

MYTH: Using a screen saver on a computer saves energy

FACT: A screen saver doesn't save energy. A common misconception is that the computer is in energy-saving mode when the screen saver pops up. If you touch a key or move the mouse, the computer screen quickly pops up again because it's actually a file on your computer that's running, meaning that it actually makes your computer work harder.

Get more energy tips and myths versus facts on Xcel's blog at blog.xcelenergy.com



City of Loretto
 279 N. Medina St. Suite 260
 P.O. Box 207
 Loretto, MN 55357

Phone: 763-479-4305
 Fax: 763-479-2685



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 53
 LORETTO, MN 55357



We're on the Web!
www.ci.loretto.mn.us



Holiday Lighting Contest

The City of Loretto invites its residents and businesses to participate in the annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Judging this year will take place between December 14th - 21st. The displays will be judged by officers of the Medina Police Department.

Winners will be selected in the following categories:

- **Best Holiday Display** - awards will go to the top 3 houses that provide the best overall display.
- **Best Neighborhood award** - this honor goes to the neighborhood that best displays the spirit of the season. No money will be awarded, only bragging rights!
- **Best Business Display** - This will be awarded to the business that has the best overall display. The winning business will be featured in our next newsletter and on the website.

Prizes for Best Holiday Display:

1. \$50 Prize Basket donated by CAS Tax & Accounting Services, Inc.
2. Free Oil Change from West Hennepin Auto & Tire
3. 1 Bag of Premium Compost donated by Randy's Sanitation

Winners will be announced at the January 8th, 2013 City Council Meeting. Please contact City Hall (763-479-4305) if you have any questions.



Please be sure your lights are on for the arrival of the Holiday Train!

