

# The City Newsletter

News for Loretto City Residents

## Holiday Train 2014

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 **Saturday, December 13th, 2014 at 4:15pm.** During the stop there will be musical performances aboard the train by Canadian country star Kira Isabella and NBC's Sing Off champions, Home Free.



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Website:  
[www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us)

City Hall Office Hours:  
Monday 8:00-1:30  
Wednesday 8:00-1:30  
3:00-6:00  
Friday 8:00-1:30

Mayor  
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Connie Scheibe  
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Beginning at 3pm that day, local area businesses and volunteers will be hosting holiday activities on West Railway Street. This will include a visit from Santa, rides on the kiddie train, and free hot chocolate and cookies. Adding to the festive atmosphere, KRWC radio station out of Buffalo will be broadcasting live and playing holiday music.

### New Special Attraction in 2014



**Reindeer Sleigh Rides with real reindeer pulling a traditional sleigh, will be offered free of charge from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Come enjoy the special experience of real live reindeer!**

Road closures will begin at 2:30 pm, with shuttle service and parking provided at the Loretto Softball Fields parking lot. All activities are free - please bring food or monetary donations for the food shelves!

The annual CP Holiday Train has become part of the social fabric of many communities and an important fundraiser for their food shelves. Last year, the Holiday Train event brought in over \$25,000 and 1,800 pounds of food because of the generous community support. Donations will once again be shared with the local food shelves in Hanover, Rockford, Delano and Maple Plain.

21st Century Bank will again this year match up to \$2500 total combined collected dollars bank wide for the area food shelves they serve. Stop in the bank and make your contribution for the match.

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



## Recycling News

### 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 6th and 13th. Trees must be placed at the curb by 6:00 am 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.

### Household Battery Recycling

Loretto City Hall is a collection site for household batteries. This is a program through Hennepin County. Bring in your household batteries and deposit them in the green collection bucket right inside the office doors. When the bucket becomes full, we will call Hennepin County and they come collect the batteries for recycling.



### Upcoming Recycling Dates

- December 9 & 23
- January 6 & 20
- February 3 & 17
- March 3 & 17

## Upcoming Meetings

### City Council Meetings

Loretto City Council meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the City Council Chambers, 279 N. Medina St., Suite 260.

Next Council meetings: Dec. 9, 2014, Jan.13, 2015 and Feb. 10, 2015.

On occasion these dates need to be rescheduled, please watch the City website for the most up-to-date information.

### City Council Agendas and Minutes Notifications

Stay informed on what is happening at upcoming City Council meetings. The city emails copies of council agendas and minutes at no cost to residents. If you would like to be added to the regular email notification list, send an email to: [mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us) to sign up.

### Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

The Loretto City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014 at 7 pm to discuss and adopt the 2015 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. This levy amount has not been increased since 2011. 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 2015.

Council will also discuss amending the fee schedule for 2015 with an increase in the Special Meeting of Council rate from \$600 plus expenses to \$1,100 plus expenses. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this public hearing.

### Loretto Redevelopment Committee

Watch the City website for information on these meeting dates and times.

# 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.

### Did you know.....

Over time, the salt applied to our roads in the winter can harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, corrode vehicles, roads, buildings and bridges. Too much salt results in costly damages and serious environmental consequences.

During the spring melt, that salt will dissolve and flow into our lakes and rivers. It does **not** go to a waste treatment facility. Help keep our waters clean this winter by following these few simple steps.

### Winter Tips

#### **Before the Storm**

Apply a liquid de-icer before expected snow falls to prevent snow and ice from building up. This will help make shoveling more easier and more effective.

**You can make your own liquid de-icer!  
Mix 2 cups of hot water and one cup of salt. Apply with garden sprayer or sprinkle on with a watering can.**

#### **Shovel that Snow!**

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

#### **Less is Better**

When applying salt, if there are left-over crystals still visible, the salt has been over applied. Sweep up the leftover salt and reuse or dispose of it in the trash.

#### **Temperature Matters**

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



### Medicine Disposal

Properly disposing of unused medicines is important to prevent abuse or poisoning and to protect the environment. Storing unused medicines in the home poses safety and health threats.

Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem, especially among teens. Accidental poisonings from medicines are also on the rise.

Medicines flushed down the drain or toilet, or disposed of in the trash, can contaminate bodies of water, harm wildlife and pollute drinking water.

Hennepin County offers 6 medicine drop-off sites, which are free to the public. Please bring your medicines in their original containers or place the medicine in a quart-sized plastic bag.

Hours and addresses for each location, accepted medicines and much more information can be found at: [www.hennepin.us/medicine](http://www.hennepin.us/medicine) or call 612-348-3777.

#### **Drop-off Locations:**

- Brooklyn Center: Hennepin County District Court Brookdale
- Brooklyn Park: Hennepin County Sheriff's Patrol Headquarters
- Edina: Hennepin County Library - Southdale
- Minneapolis: Hennepin County Public Safety Facility
- Minnetonka: Hennepin County District Court Ridgedale
- Spring Park: Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol

# Miscellaneous News

### Winter Reminders



### 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 2am and 7am, 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.



Loretto City Hall and 21st Century Bank of Loretto will be the local drop off sites for the KARE 11 2014 Toys for Tots Drive. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to either of the above drop sites by Thursday, December 18, 2014. 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](http://www.kare11.com).

### Radon Testing

#### **Consider testing your home**

Though you can not see, smell or taste radon, it may be present at dangerous levels in your home. Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that seeps up from the earth. When inhaled, it gives off radioactive particles that can damage the cells lining the lungs. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, and causes over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

In Minnesota, 2 in 5 homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that every Minnesota home be tested for radon.

Testing your home is easy to do. Minnesota residents can purchase a short term test kit for \$9.95 at [www.mn.radon.com](http://www.mn.radon.com). Additional information regarding radon can be found at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) and doing a search for "radon". There is also information on the MDH website regarding qualified mitigation contractors in the area.

### Loretto Sno-Birds



Enjoy snowmobiling? Being a member of the Loretto Sno-Birds is a way to promote safe, responsible snowmobiling as well as supporting a good trail system on which to ride. The club coordinates local rides and gatherings where information and friendship are shared.

Anyone interested in snowmobiling is welcome to attend the monthly meeting, which is held the 3rd Thursday of the month (Sept. through April) at 8 pm at the Choo Choo Restaurant and Bar in Loretto. \$30 per year pays for family or individual membership and includes Northwest Trails and MN USA registrations. The act of joining is your way to support the local trails and ensure that the sport is not harmed by unfriendly laws.

Participation in the club is always a fun and rewarding experience. Check it out!

# Public Notification System

The City has a system in place so that we can notify you of public safety information or local emergencies with a voice message, email or text. Please fill out the information below and drop off the form at City Hall or e-mail the information to: [cscheibe@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:cscheibe@ci.loretto.mn.us). You have the option of receiving a voice message, email and/or text message. You may choose any or all of the options. We are able to add and update resident and business contact information at any time. This is a private listing, your information will not be shared with any other entities.

Our goal is to have 100% participation of Loretto residents - please spread the word!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list in order of importance. (Phone #1 will be the first to receive notification.)	Name (ie. "Home phone", "Jane's cell phone", etc.)	Phone number - please include area code
Phone #1 (voice message)		
Phone #2 (voice message)		
Phone #3 (voice message)		
Phone #4 (voice message)		
Phone number for text message		
Phone number for TTY (for hearing impaired residents)		

My mobile provider (i.e. Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, etc. Needed for text message function): \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Email address

Please return this form to City Hall or e-mail to: [cscheibe@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:cscheibe@ci.loretto.mn.us).

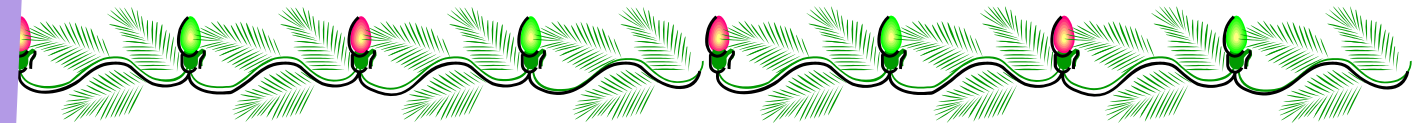
Thank you!

## City of Loretto

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### Let's Light Up Loretto!

Do you go all out to decorate the outside of your home for the Holidays? If you do, enter a photo of your hard work and creativity into the City of Loretto's Holiday Lighting Contest (Loretto residents only).

This year's contestants need to take a photo of their lit up house and submit it to the City of Loretto at [mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us). Final votes will be determined Friday, December 19, 2014 at 8am. We'll get your photo onto our website and Facebook page (Holiday Train - Loretto MN). The three entries with the most "Likes", plus emails votes to the City of Loretto ([mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us)), will get to choose from the following prizes (first place will get first choice of the three donated prizes, second place - second choice, third place - third choice):

- \$50 Gift Certificate from Axel's Tavern
- \$50 Gift Certificate from Koch's Korner
- Free Oil Change Gift Certificate from West Hennepin Auto & Tire

(Thank you to these generous local businesses for their donations!!)



### Opt-In To Mailed Copies Of Newsletter

Currently the Loretto City Newsletter is mailed to all residents in June and December. It is e-mailed to residents in March and September. Contact City Hall if you would like a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you each quarter. You may also request to be added to the e-mail listing to receive an e-newsletters as well as City Council agendas, minutes and other city information.