



Newsletter

December 2024

Volume XXIX No. 4

HOLIDAY TRAIN 2024

The Canadian Pacific Railroad will once again be bringing their Holiday Train to Loretto. The train is scheduled to arrive on **Saturday, December 14th, 2024 at 4:15 pm.** During the stop there will be musical performances aboard the train by Seaforth and Alana Springsteen.



Beginning at 3 pm 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 festive winter holiday hat and enjoy the activities of the day!

Road closures begin at 2:00 pm. Shuttle service is provided from 3-6:00 pm to and from the following parking lots: Loretto Athletic and Recreational Complex, Cake My Day and Baker Park at Lake Independence. 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 and inside on pages 4 & 5.

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 \$23,000 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
Brenda Daniels
bdaniels@ci.loretto.mn.us

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Mary Schneider
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Becky Coyle
bcoyle@ci.loretto.mn.us

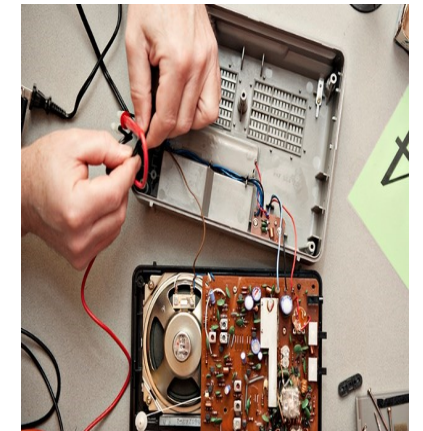
Public Works Director
Jake Leuer
jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us

Recycling News

Repair tips from handy Fix-It Clinic volunteers

At monthly Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix their items. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.

After helping hundreds of residents get their broken household items back in working order, the handy volunteers at Fix-It Clinics have gained some valuable insights into common repair issues. Here are some of their fixing tips:



- Don't be afraid to take it apart. One of the first things to overcome is the fear of taking something apart. Remember, the item is already broken, so there's no harm in trying to fix it.
- Items that seem broken often just need to be cleaned.
- You will need tools and some knowledge of how to use them in order to fix things. You don't necessarily need a lot of specialty tools - a basic toolset can go a long way.
- Look for replacement parts. Many items stop working due to one broken part that is relatively inexpensive to replace.
- Invest in good-quality household items and consumer goods. Higher-quality items are likely to last longer, making them less expensive and less of a hassle in the long run.
- Consider the ability to repair an item when purchasing it, including how feasible it is to take the item apart and how well-made the components are.
- Some things that are broken may not be worth fixing. Make sure to properly dispose of these items. Search the [Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide](#) for options.
- For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic.

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.



Upcoming Recycling Dates

December 10th & 24th, 2024

January 7th & 21rd, 2025

February 4th & 18th, 2025

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 flushing's. 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 toward the bottom of the homepage 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.

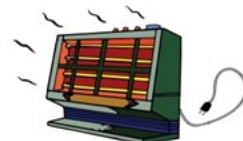
Have fire extinguishers available in your kitchen, garage and on each floor, and make sure everyone in your household knows how to use them.

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!



Holiday Train

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM OR MONETARY DONATION

21st Century Bank will match up to \$1500 and Eagle Aluminum 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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 3-5 PM

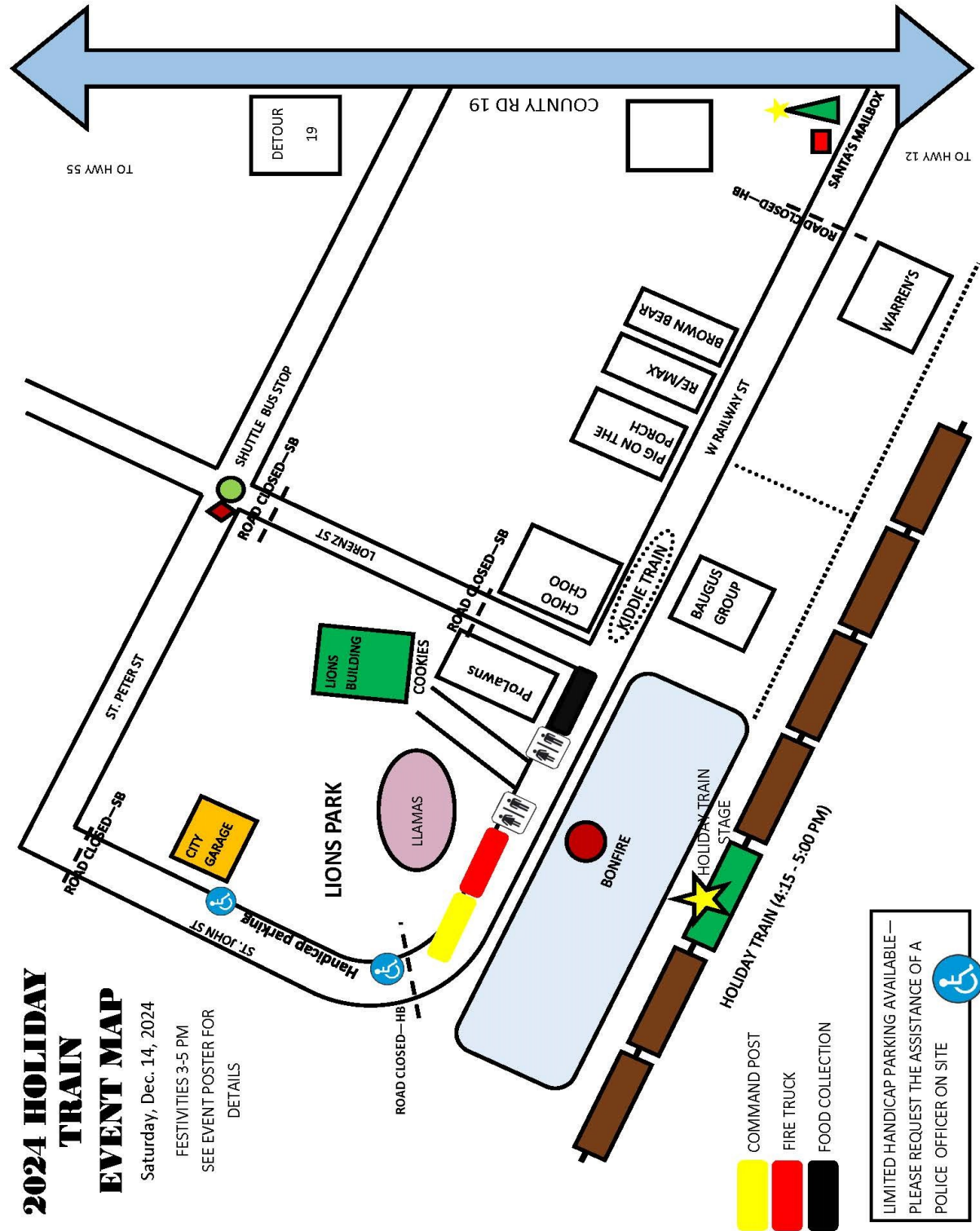


- **HOLIDAY TRAIN ARRIVES AT 4:15 P.M.**
- **MUSICAL PERFORMANCE FROM 4:30-5:00 PM BY SEAFORTH & ALANA SPRINGSTEEN.**
- **KIDDIE TRAIN RIDES AND SANTA'S MAILBOX**
- **SERVING FREE HOT CHOCOLATE, CIDER AND COOKIES**
- **PHOTO OPS WITH HOLIDAY CHARACTERS**
- **FESTIVE MUSIC AND BONFIRE**

PARKING & SHUTTLE: LORETTO BALL FIELDS, CAKE MY DAY, BAKER PARK
 SHUTTLE COMPLIMENTS OF STAHLKE BUS SERVICE. OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE AND AT INTERSECTIONS TO HELP GUESTS FIND PARKING, INCLUDING LIMITED HANDICAPPED PARKING.

WWW.CI.LORETTO.MN.US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Holiday Train



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 10, 2024, January 14 and February 11, 2025.

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 10, 2024, at 7 pm** to discuss and adopt the 2025 Budget for all funds. The proposed levy for the General Fund is \$630,780 (collectible in 2025), a nine percent increase over last year's Final Levy. In addition to the General Fund levy, a Debt Levy of \$172,157.73 is required to service the 2021 and 2024 Street Project G.O. Bonds. The total proposed tax capacity-based levy is \$802,937.73. The final levy will be voted on at the December 10 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 2025.

The City Council will also discuss setting the 2025 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 \$32 per tree. Trees may be placed curbside by 6am on Tuesday, **January 7th** or **Tuesday, January 14th**. Residents 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 9, 2024, January 13 and February 10, 2025.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN

Saturday, December 14th, 2024, 3-5pm on Railway St. West. See pages 4 & 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 2024 Toys For Tots Drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the drop off sites by Wednesday, December 11th. 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

With colder weather right around the corner, water pollution prevention is very critical. Winter brings with it unique and significant pollution concerns to our lakes and rivers. Because the ground will be frozen over the next few months, it acts like a hard surface similar to asphalt or concrete. It no longer has the ability to act like a natural filter.

Pollutants accumulate in snow banks and ice all winter long. Once the snow melts, all the grime, grit, dirt, road salt and other pollutants are washed into our stormwater systems, rivers and lakes. This seasonal addition of melt water can result in the largest single annual water runoff event in our region and contributes significant amounts of pollutants to sensitive streams and rivers. It is important that we take steps to reduce the amount of potential pollution sources during the winter months.

Be stingy with your salt application and consider alternative salting methods. Road salt can be harmful to plants, aquatic life and drinking water supplies. Salt alternatives like potassium acetate (KA) or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are less damaging to homes and landscaping and can be used to de-ice and improve traction on a walkway or driveway. If you do apply salt, shovel first and apply as little as possible.

Rethink rinsing your garage floor. While it is tempting to take out the hose and wash that ugly, gray sludge and salt off your car and out of your garage on a mild winter day - please stop! Residue left from road salt, oil, gas and other road pollutants drops from your car and ends up on the garage floor. Your garage runoff most likely drains into a storm sewer drain, ditch, river or lake, which means you are flushing pollutants from your garage right into our streams, and eventually into the Crow River. One alternative is to clean your car by taking it to a commercial car wash where the drains flow to waste water treatment facilities. A clean car also means a cleaner garage!

Watch your waste. Picking up pet waste is just as important in the wintertime as it is in the warmer months. Animal waste can be a significant source of harmful bacterial and disease. Cooler temperatures and frozen soil slow down the decay process. When the snow finally does melt, you will have a very unpleasant surprise waiting if pet waste is not removed daily. If you have horses or livestock, don't spread manure in the winter months. Manure is not effective in cold weather and doesn't break down in the soil. It accumulates on the surface and is then washed directly into streams and lakes during thaws, contributing bacteria and excessive nutrients to our surface waters.

Cover bare soil. If you are doing earthwork in the winter, remember to maintain your construction side erosion and sediment control practices to keep soil and other pollutants on your site and out of our streams and lakes. Late winter thaws and saturated soil conditions can lead to a very muddy spring. So be prepared and maintain erosion and sediment control practices all winter long and plant winter ground cover on areas with bare soil to prevent soil erosion.

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 and exemptions.

City of Loretto

279 N. Medina Street, Suite 260
P.O. Box 207
Loretto, MN 55357

Phone: 763-479-4305

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55357



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.