



# Newsletter

June 2023

Volume XXVIII No. 2

## 2023 LORETTO FUN FEST

Fun Fest 2023 will be held on Saturday, September 9th. This year we are partnering with the Loretto Fire Department to celebrate their 75th Anniversary with a street dance on Railway Street West and Fun Fest events at the Loretto Lions Park.

There's a lot to celebrate! The Loretto and Hamel Fire Departments have merged into the West Suburban Fire District. While Loretto Fire is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, Hamel Fire is celebrating its 90th Anniversary. They will be hosting the street dance with three bands performing throughout the day and evening. Watch for more information about the activities on the City's website.

**Food Drive**—21st Century Bank will be collecting non-perishable food and/or cash donations at the Fun Fest, in the Lions Park. Drop off your donation and stick around for the fun! It's a great way to support those in need. All donations go to support local food shelves. Make checks payable to *Hanover Food Shelf*.

**Loretto Market/Business Expo**—Help us spread the word about the Loretto Market/Business Expo. It should be a good day for vendors, with large crowds expected to help celebrate the Fire Department. Invite your friends and family to participate, sell your own wares or advertise a business. The cost for a 12' x 12' space is \$25 or FREE with a \$100 or more donation. The vendor form has more details and is available on the city's website: [www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us). Contact Mary Schneider at [mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us) or call City Hall for more information.

**Fireworks**—We will once again be having our spectacular fireworks display at dusk (around 8:30 pm), with a little extra pizzazz in honor of the Loretto Fire Department! If you enjoy this event and the fireworks, **please consider making a donation**. See the form on page 7 or go to our website to learn how to donate.

## LORETTO WELCOMES A NEW UTILITY CLERK

At the May 9th council meeting, the City Council approved the hiring of Loretto resident Michelle Palmer for the Utility Clerk position. Besides maintaining Utility Billing, Michelle will be producing the city newsletter and chairing the civic event planning committees. Please join us in welcoming Michelle as a Loretto staff member.



**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](http://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](mailto:kkoch@ci.loretto.mn.us)

**Council Members**  
Brenda Daniels  
[bdaniels@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:bdaniels@ci.loretto.mn.us)

Greg Elsen  
[gelsen@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:gelsen@ci.loretto.mn.us)

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**Utility Clerk**  
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**Public Works**  
Jake Leuer  
[jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us)

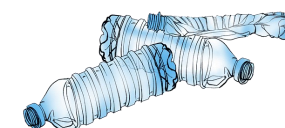
Aaron Ende  
[aende@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:aende@ci.loretto.mn.us)



## Recycling News

### THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTICS

Plastics can be a hassle - they create clutter and can be confusing to recycle - plus they contribute to litter, harm water and wildlife, and have largely unknown health impacts for us. Fortunately, there's a lot we can do to help create a plastic-free world, from learning more about plastic waste and recycling to making simple swaps to advocating for changes in your community and sharing your story.



Plastics are problematic for many reasons.

Worldwide, plastic production has skyrocketed since the 1970s, and a lot of the growth has come in the form of packaging and single-use plastics. Most plastics are made from oil and gas - fossil fuels that contribute to climate change. About 4% to 8% of the world's oil production is for plastics, and most plastics are thrown away after a single use.

Since packaging and single-use plastics are used for a short period of time and then discarded, they contribute significantly to the increasing amounts of plastic waste and litter. Although recycling can be a good option for managing certain plastic items, only a small percentage of plastic products are recycled, and many types of plastic are hard to recycle.

Unlike items made from natural materials like plants that can be composted and returned to the soil, plastics don't go away. Instead, they break down into smaller pieces of plastic. These microplastic pieces are now found almost everywhere, including in our air, water, soil, and bodies. Plastics in the environment pollute our water, harm wildlife, and have largely unknown health impacts for us.

### THE PLASTIC-FREE CHALLENGE

The Plastic-Free Challenge is an effort to reduce plastic consumption, especially single-use plastics, in ways that fit best in your lifestyle and have the most impact on reducing your footprint.

Hennepin County sponsored a month-long plastic-free challenge in February. While it's too late to join that specific challenge, the resources and educational information are still available. The online challenge has 70 actions you can choose from in seven categories. Loretto challenges you to check it out! <https://hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>

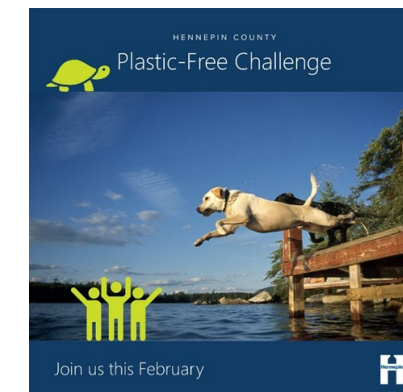


[www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere](http://www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere)

### Upcoming Recycling Dates

June 13 & 27

July 11 & 25



### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE DRINKING WATER REPORT

Water suppliers that serve the same people year-round must prepare annual water quality reports (consumer confidence reports) for their customers. The first reports were due in October 1999, and from then on they come out in June of each year. The reports tell where drinking water comes from, what's in it, and how you can help protect it.

The 2022 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report can be seen in its entirety on the City website at: <http://tinyurl.com/om87157>. You can also go to [www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us), from the "Utility" drop down, click on "Water" to find CCR's from 2006 through the current 2022 CCR.

If you would like a hard copy sent to you, contact City Hall at 763-479-4305 or [mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us).

# 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 run off 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.

## ADOPT A STORM DRAIN



Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other

debris to reduce water pollution. Go to the [Adopt-A-Drain website](http://Adopt-A-Drain website), enter your address to select a drain, and follow the prompts. You even get to name the drain!



### SIGN UP

Sign up online at: [Adopt-A-Drain.org](http://Adopt-A-Drain.org) to adopt a drain in your neighborhood.



### KEEP YOUR DRAIN CLEAR

Sweep leaves, trash and other debris off the drain surface year round.



### TRACK YOUR IMPACT

Keep an estimated total of the debris you collect and enter it into your online account so we can gauge the cumulative results of our work.



### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let friends and neighbors know about your commitment and tell them about small things they can do at home to prevent water pollution.

### TIPS FOR CLEANING A STORM DRAIN

- ◆ **You might want these tools:** broom, rake, trash grabber, gloves, orange cone, safety vest, snow shovel or dustpan, pail or yard waste bag
- ◆ **Never remove a grate.** Clean only the surface of the storm and the area around it. Never remove the grate or attempt to clean inside the catch basin. Contact city staff if it seems plugged.
- ◆ **Safety first!** There could be something sharp or harmful near the drain, so wear gloves to protect your hands. You may want to use a trash grabber to collect debris. Consider wearing reflective clothing so you are visible to cars.
- ◆ **Busy Streets.** It's best to adopt drains on local residential streets. If you do adopt a drain on a street with lots of traffic, stick to clearing trash and debris from the sidewalk and let city staff take care of the street and the surface of the storm drain.
- ◆ **Not just the drains.** While the program asks you to adopt a drain, clearing debris from streets and sidewalks is helpful since anything on the pavement can wash into storm drains when it rains.
- ◆ **Separating and disposing of waste.** Place waste in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass, plastic, cans) and compostable (leaves, grass clippings, sticks and sediment). Sediment collected in spring contains chemicals from deicers and must be put in the trash. If there is A LOT of sediment near your drain, notify city staff as this may be an indicator of a bigger problem.

**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](mailto:jakeleuer@ci.loretto.mn.us). See City Code Section 412:30 for details and exemp-

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention Survey

- 1.) I have read articles, brochures, or posters about stormwater pollution prevention in the City's newsletter, web site or at City Hall.
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in the City newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at City Hall
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, on the website	<input type="checkbox"/> No (please skip to question #4)
- 2.) How informative were these articles, brochures, or posters?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly
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- 3.) Did your practices around your home or business change as a result of what you read?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> No, not at all	<input type="checkbox"/> I changed several practices, but I think I could do more
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat, but not much	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, thoroughly
- 4.) Comments, suggestions, and questions:

Please return to: **Loretto City Hall  
PO Box 207  
Loretto, MN 55357**



## OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

At the April 11<sup>th</sup> Loretto city council meeting, Mayor Kent Koch presented an Outstanding Citizen Award to Stephen Holten, 315 Sunnyridge Lane, Loretto. Medina Police Officer John Vinck recommended Steve for this award based on what he witnessed as the first responder to the Hillcrest Apartment fire on January 21<sup>st</sup> of this year. Vinck reported that when he arrived on the scene the front entry of the building was engulfed with smoke. Vinck witnessed a person coming out and going back in to help residents out of the building, some of whom were unable to walk. This person was later identified as Steve Holten, who lives across the street from the apartment building. Vinck stated he believes Holten risked his life to help the residents exit the burning apartment building.

After receiving the award at the council meeting, Holten stated he did what anybody would have done. He said he was in the right place at the right time.



Outstanding Citizen Award recipient Steve Holten with his fiancé Amanda and their son Daniel, standing in front of the Hillcrest Apartment Building.



# 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.

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

Future Dates: June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Aug. 22 (Budget Workshop), and September 12.

## WeCAN

WeCAN comes to City Hall on the second Monday of each month from 2 to 4 pm. Upcoming dates: June 12, July 10, August 14, see page 6 for details.

## RETIREMENT PARTY FOR JEFF LEUER

Thursday, June 15, 4–8 pm @ Loretto Lions Park, see page 8 for details.

## LORETTO FUN FEST

Saturday, September 9, 3–7 pm @ Loretto Lions Park, see pages 1 and 7 for details.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT STREET DANCE

Saturday, September 9, 3 pm–Midnight on Railway Street West, see page 1 for details.

# Miscellaneous News

## MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE

The Mayors' Monarch Pledge program launched in 2015 to engage cities and communities in monarch and pollinator conservation. Loretto joined in 2019 and has renewed the pledge each year. The National Wildlife Federation recommends that the best way to help monarchs is by restoring their natural habitat by planting native milkweeds and nectar plants, eliminating pesticides, and encouraging others to adopt these practices. Stop by City Hall for free Common Milkweed seeds (while supplies last!)



© Botanical Interests, Inc.



## RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF CONNIE SCHEIBE

At the April 11th city council meeting, the council adopted a resolution recognizing and thanking Connie Scheibe for her nine years of service to the city of Loretto. During her tenure with the city, Scheibe served as the Utility Clerk. She also produced the city newsletter and since 2019 was the chairperson of the civic event planning committee.

Scheibe thanked the council and staff for their support during her time with the city.

Pictured left: Mayor Kent Koch presents a Certificate of Recognition to Scheibe.

# Miscellaneous News



WeCAN services are available at Loretto City Hall on the second Monday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m.

Low-income residents can apply for emergency assistance, pick up a bag of groceries and baby diapers, if needed, and receive help with various referrals and resources. Walk-ins are welcome, however, appointments can be made by calling WeCAN at 952-472-0742. Income and other verifications may be required for some services.

WeCAN services are available to qualified individuals in Loretto, Greenfield, Rockford, Minnetrista, Mound, Maple Plain, Independence, St. Boni, western Orono, Spring Park, Tonka Bay and Minnetonka Beach.

## LORETTO LARKS HOME GAME SCHEDULE

Come support the Loretto Larks!

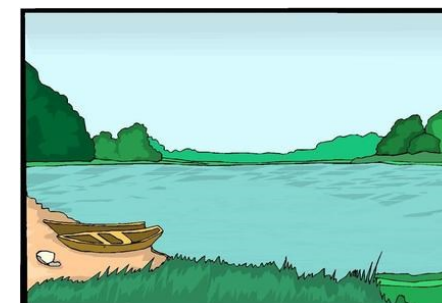
Friday, June 2	7pm	vs. Maple Lake
Sunday, June 11	1pm	vs. Cokato
Wednesday, June 14	7pm	vs. Maple Plain
Sunday, June 18	1pm	vs. Hutchinson
Wednesday, June 28	7pm	vs. Dassel
Wednesday, July 12	7pm	vs. Waverly
Friday, July 14	7:30pm	vs. Rockford
Sunday, July 16	1pm	vs. Delano
Wednesday, July 19	7pm	vs. Howard Lake
Friday, July 21	7:30pm	vs. Litchfield
August 3-13: Region12 Tournament at Loretto		

For details and schedule updates, visit: @LorettoLarks on Twitter, Loretto Larks Baseball on Facebook or <https://lorettolarks.teams.mnbaseball.org/Schedule>

## KEEP GRASS CLIPPINGS AND VEGETATION OFF THE STREETS

Please be reminded that depositing grass clippings and other vegetation on the public streets presents a danger to the water quality of our lakes and is also a violation of city ordinances.

When grass clippings are left on streets, sidewalks and driveways, they contribute to clogged storm drains and pollution of the lakes. Decaying grass releases phosphorus which increases algae growth, which leads to algae scum, odor and fish kill.



Please collect & dispose of grass clippings properly or leave them on your lawn.

## PERMIT REQUIRED FOR SOLICITORS

*From the Medina Police Department:* With the arrival of spring we tend to receive complaints of unwanted peddlers in our residential neighborhoods soliciting goods or services. Loretto's City ordinances require solicitors to obtain a permit from the City prior to selling products door to door. If you have a solicitor come to your door, ask them for their City permit. If they don't have proof of a permit, send them away. If they refuse to leave, call the Medina Police.

The ordinance also allows you to post your property with "no solicitor" signs, which prevents even the permitted solicitors from coming to your door. If they do come onto your property they can be charged with a violation of our ordinances.

When a solicitor comes to City Hall for a permit, we will run a check for past criminal histories before the permit is issued. Although they have a City permit, it does not mean the City endorses them or their products. As the saying goes, "buyer beware". There are exceptions to the requirement to obtain a permit: regular route sales persons, sales to businesses, newspaper delivery, and nonprofit organizations such as societies, associations or corporations solely of its members (Scouts, Lions).

Questions? Please contact the Medina Police at 763-473-9209 or City Hall at 763-479-4305.



# 24th Annual Loretto Fun Fest September 9, 2023



279 N. Medina St., Suite 260, P. O. Box 207, Loretto, MN 55357  
Phone: 763-479-4305  
Email: mschneider@ci.loretto.mn.us

May 2023

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

Preparation is under way for this year's **24th Annual Loretto Fun Fest**, scheduled for Saturday, **September 9th, 2023**. This year the Fun Fest event will be held at the Loretto Lions Park in conjunction with the **Loretto Fire Department's 75th Anniversary Street Dance** held on Railway Street West. Once again, the Fun Fest events will take place with **free admission** due to your generosity! Street Dance tickets will be available on the Fire Department's web site and at the gate. The Loretto Market and Business Expo will have a variety of vendors and businesses in addition to all the fun activities. We look forward to celebrating Loretto, along with the Loretto Fire Department, at this family-friendly community event!

In honor of the Fire Department's 75th Anniversary, we're planning an extra fabulous fireworks show starting at dusk. We hope we can count on your support! With your donation of \$100 or more, you are entitled to a space in our market/ expo to advertise your business or craft. Submit the attached form to reserve your space. In addition, as in previous years, sponsor posters will be displayed at the Fun Fest, printed in the Delano Herald newspaper, posted on the City of Loretto website and in the Loretto Newsletter, recognizing your support and donation. Donations are split into different sponsorship levels: **Bronze** for donations up to \$49.99; **Silver** for donations from \$50 - \$99.99; **Gold** for donations from \$100 - \$499.99; **Platinum** for donations \$500 - \$1000.00 and **Titanium** for donations over \$1,000!

**\*\*Brought back again this year** will be a Food Drive during the hours of the Fun Fest. Bring your food and monetary donations along and drop them off at the Lions Park. Let's do what we can to help our neighbors in need.


To make a donation for the Fun Fest event, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and return it to Loretto City Hall along with your donation. If you make a \$100 or more donation and would like booth space at the Loretto Market/ Business Expo, please complete and submit the attached form. We would like to have donations in by **June 30th** so we can budget for the event, but late donations are always accepted and welcomed!

Please feel free to contact Loretto City Hall (763-479-4305) or any of us with questions. We really appreciate your continued support. If you would like more information about the Loretto Market/Business Expo or other event details, please visit the City web site at [www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us) or contact City Hall. Updates will be posted as they become available.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you can take part in the fireworks as well as all the fun activities planned.

The Fun Fest Committee members thank you in advance for your generosity.

  
Jeff Leuer  
Loretto Fire Dept.  
[jeff.leuer@lorettofire.org](mailto:jeff.leuer@lorettofire.org)

  
Carla Demchuk  
21st Century Bank  
[cdemchuk@21stcb.com](mailto:cdemchuk@21stcb.com)

  
Malia Kaszubowski  
Loretto Resident  
[malia.kasz@hotmail.com](mailto:malia.kasz@hotmail.com)

### 2023 Loretto Fun Fest

Donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print as you would like your name published)*

Please make checks payable to "City of Loretto". Thank you!

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to sign up for a space at the Market/Expo. Please complete the attached form.

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

### City of Loretto

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

Phone: 763-479-4305

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
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LORETTO, MN  
55357



### NEW CITY LOGO

We are excited to unveil the new logo that the City Council adopted at the February 14th city council meeting.

You will start seeing this on many of our documents, forms and other items representing the city.

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR RETIRING

After 19 years as Public Works Director for the City of Loretto, Jeff Leuer will be retiring on June 30th. Jeff has accepted a position as full-time Fire Chief for the West Suburban Fire District (the new name of the merged Loretto and Hamel Fire Departments.)

Please join us in congratulating Jeff and celebrating with him at a retirement party at the Lions Park on Thursday, June 15th from 4-8 pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Public Works staff members Jake Leuer and Aaron Ende will be serving as Interim Public Works leaders until the Public Works Director position is filled later this year.

