



Newsletter

March 2026

Volume XXXI NO. 1

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

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City Hall Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday 8 am–4 pm
Friday 8 am–2 pm

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kkoch@ci.loretto.mn.us

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Utility Clerk
Becky Coyle
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DISPOSABLE, NOT FLUSHABLE!

Disposable wipes, including those labeled "flushable," cause significant issues for Loretto sewer systems by failing to disintegrate, leading to severe blockages in pipes, pump failures, and increased maintenance costs. These non-biodegradable items snag on pipe imperfections, causing sewage backups in homes and costly damage to municipal infrastructure.

System Clogs: Unlike toilet paper, wipes do not break down in water. They catch on imperfections in pipes, creating dams that cause sewage to back up into homes and businesses.

Pump Failure: Wipes travel to lift stations where they wrap around pump impellers, causing them to jam, overheat, and burn out, necessitating expensive repairs or replacements.

"Ragging" Effect: Wipes combine with other materials in the sewer system to create massive, stubborn blockages, often referred to as "ragging".

Increased Costs: The [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(MPCA\)](#) warns that these, along with other non-flushable items like paper towels, increase maintenance expenses and operational strain on wastewater treatment plants.

To prevent these issues, residents are advised to throw all wipes in the trash not the toilet.



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 valuable insights into common repair issues. Here are some of their fixing tips:

- One of the first things to overcome is the fear of taking something apart. 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 hassle in the long run.
- Consider the ability to repair an item when purchasing it, including how feasible it is to take 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.

Upcoming Recycling Dates

March 3, 17 & 31
April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26
June 9 & 23

*Pickups that fall on or after a holiday will be serviced one day late.

CURBSIDE LEAF & GRASS COLLECTION: TUESDAY, MAY 5TH, 2026

Brush must be tied in 3' x 3' bundles. Acceptable bags include paper (Kraft) or compostable plastic (usually clear or a translucent shade of green or white).

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES: MAY 13TH -16TH, 2026

City staff will request notice on the Lion's sign. If you would like free advertising on the city website, please contact Becky Coyle at bcoyle@ci.loretto.mn.us to be included in the listing.

CURBSIDE CLEAN-UP: TUESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2026

Loretto residents can take advantage of the City's Curbside Clean-up by placing items curbside by 6am. Items NOT accepted are: electronics, hazardous waste such as: paints, oils, liquids, asbestos, propane tanks, and fluorescent bulbs. Republic Services determines what is acceptable. If they do not pick up items, residents are responsible for their disposal. See the [Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide](#) to find how and where to dispose of any item. For large items such as furniture, appliances, or construction debris, call Republic at 763-972-3335 to make arrangements for pickup. There is a charge for disposal of bulk items.

2026 Holiday Pick-up Schedule

Memorial Day: Wed., May 27th

Independence Day: Pick-up not affected

Labor Day: Wed. Sept 9th

Thanksgiving: Pick-up not affected

Christmas: Pick-up not affected

Route times may change, have carts curbside by 6am.

Community Corner

NEW BUSINESS—DEEP ROOTS

Deep Roots, a new family-owned cannabis dispensary, will be opening in Loretto in the near future. While final inspections and an official opening date are still being scheduled, the owners are pleased to introduce their business to the town.

With years of cannabis industry experience, Deep Roots is located in the heart of Loretto, directly across the street from Detour 19. The dispensary is rooted in education and trust, with a focus on growing alongside Loretto. The business aims to provide a welcoming, education-focused retail environment centered on quality, transparency, and high standards.

Hiring will take place as the opening approaches, with additional details and timeline updates shared in the coming months via their website, www.deeprootscannabismn.com. Please join the city of Loretto in welcoming Deep Roots.



LORETTO LARKS HOME GAME SCHEDULE

Come support the Loretto Larks!

Wednesday, June 3	7pm	vs. Maple Plain
Sunday, June 7	1pm	vs. Hamel
Wednesday, June 10	7pm	vs. Dassel-Cokato
Friday, June 12	7pm	vs. Maple Lake
Wednesday, June 17	7pm	vs. Howard Lake (Fox 9)
Sunday, June 21	1pm	vs. Cokato
Wednesday, June 24	7pm	vs. Buffalo
Friday, June 26	7pm	vs. Kimball
Friday, July 17	7pm	vs. Hutchinson
Saturday, July 25	5pm	vs. St Martin



League Regular Season Ends ####
 Aug 5-Aug 16 District Playoff Tournament TBA
 Aug 21-Sept 7: State Tournament New Prague/
 Shakopee/Jordan/Chaska TBA

For details and schedule updates, visit: @LorettoLarks on X or Loretto Larks Baseball on Facebook, or LorettoLarks on Instagram, or minnesotabaseballassociation.org/teams/loretto-larks/

SEASONAL SPRING WEIGHT LIMITS

Be aware that spring road weight restrictions may be in effect. These limits protect our roads and keep the cost of repairs down for all taxpayers. Check with City Hall before scheduling any large deliveries using heavy trucks. Help protect our roads!

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The second Wednesday of each month between 8 & 11:30 am, usually March–November. Watch for Public Works Alerts as to when these will start this year.



Dates to Note

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

Future Dates: March 17, April 28, May 12 & June 9

MARCH 31: Last day of winter parking restrictions

APRIL 12: Fire Dept. Pancake/French Toast Breakfast (see back page for details)

MAY 5: Curbside leaf and grass collection (see pg. 2)

MAY 13-16: Citywide garage sales (see pg. 2)

MAY 19: Curbside clean-up (see pg. 2)

OPEN BOOK MEETINGS

The Hennepin County Assessor's Office will host seven in person meetings with locations throughout the county. A virtual meeting session will be offered as well. Taxpayers can attend any of the meetings based on their own preference. The available meeting dates, times and locations will be provided with the property valuation notice taxpayers will receive from Hennepin County in early April. The valuation notice will also be accompanied by an insert providing additional information and instructions to assist taxpayers with understanding the appeal options.

It is important to note that taxpayers may call their assessor at any time after receiving their valuation notice up until the County Board of Appeal and Equalization (CBAE) deadline for appointments on **May 20, 2026**. Each valuation notice includes a phone number that will put taxpayers in touch with the appropriate appraiser or assessor for their jurisdiction.



Annual Waste Deposit Disclosure Notification

Effective January 1, 1994, state law (Minn. Statue 115A.9302) has required all haulers to disclose to their customers the disposal facility used to dispose of their waste. This is notification for 2026.

You may be responsible for any liability that results from contamination at a facility where your waste has been deposited. Minnesota believes that its waste management system provides substantially more financial and environmental protection than depositing waste in landfills in other states. Managing your waste in Minnesota may minimize your potential liability.

Dem Con
 13020 Dem Con Drive, Shakopee, MN 55379
 MPCA Permit #SW-290
 A primary facility for construction and demolition debris.

Elk River Sanitary Landfill
 22460 Hwy. 169 NW, Elk River, MN 55330
 MPCA Permit #SW-74
 An alternate facility for mixed solid waste, industrial waste and demolition debris.

Hennepin Energy Resource Co. (HERC)
 505 6th Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55405
 MPCA Permit #21525-87-OT-1
 A primary facility for mixed solid waste.

Pine Bend Landfill
 2495 117th Street E., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
 MPCA Permit #SW-45
 An alternate facility for industrial waste and mixed solid waste.

SKB
 13425 Courthouse Blvd., Rosemount, MN 55068
 MPCA Permit #SW-383
 A primary facility for industrial waste, an alternate facility for construction and demolition debris.

Spruce Ridge
 12755 137th Street, Glencoe, MN 55336
 MPCA Permit #SW-6
 An alternate facility for mixed solid waste.

Vonco II
 15301 140th Ave. SE, Becker, MN 55308
 MPCA Permit #SW-580
 An alternate facility for mixed solid waste and industrial waste.



1051 McKinley Pkwy | P.O. Box 169
 Delano, MN 55328
 RepublicServices.com
 (763)972-3335

LORETTO HOLIDAY TRAIN 2025

We were thrilled to welcome the Canadian Pacific Railroad Holiday Train back to Loretto! The train arrived Monday, December 15th, 2025. Local businesses, community groups and volunteers hosted holiday activities on Railway Street West. Visitors enjoyed spending time with adorable llamas, rides on the kiddie train, photo ops with roaming characters, festive music and a bonfire as well as free hot chocolate and cookies. Of course, the train itself is the main attraction and featured fun and festive musical performances.

Our fundraising efforts resulted in 2033 pounds of food and \$24,414.50 in cash donations collected for local area food shelves. Many thanks to all who supported this event with donations of time, effort, food, funds, staff and supplies. It makes a difference to those in need and truly embodies the holiday spirit!



PLANNING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| City Staff | Jeff Leuer |
| Carla Demchuk | Mackenzie Mendez |
| Tristan Hafner | Jason Nelson |
| Jill Johnson | Brynn Peterson |
| Brittany Jochum | Public Works Dept. |
| Malia Kaszubowski | Joyce Rathburn |
| Kent Koch | Matt Rohman |
| Laura Lahti | Mallory Ross |

LORETTO HOLIDAY TRAIN BY THE NUMBERS

- * \$24,414.50 donated to local food shelves
- * 2033 pounds of food collected
- * Over 50 volunteers made it happen
- * 26 degree weather + snow, kept us on our toes!
- * 8 lively characters made us merry
- * 6 friendly llamas dressed in their holiday best
- * 1 most sincere **Thank You!**



HOLIDAY TRAIN SUPPORTERS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21st Century Bank | Loretto Lions Club |
| City staff | Loretto Public Works |
| Matt Coyle | Medina Police & Reserves |
| Doboszanski & Sons | Plymouth Police |
| Eagle Aluminum | ProLawns |
| Hanover Area Food Shelf | Re/Max |
| Hennepin County Sheriff's Office | Saints Peter & Paul Church |
| Christopher Johnson | Glen Schneider |
| LMCC | Stahlke Bus Service |
| LORAM | West Suburban Fire Department |







Community Corner

MAYORS' 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.



In 2025, after thorough assessments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced its proposal to list the North American monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). What does this potential listing mean for monarchs?

-  When a species is listed as threatened under the ESA, that means it is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future if conservation efforts aren't taken. Although many people have already helped conserve the butterfly, additional native habitat and protections are needed to ensure the species is conserved for future generations.
-  Both the eastern and western populations of the North American migratory monarch have suffered drastic population declines in recent decades due to habitat loss and fragmentation, excessive pesticide use, and climate change.
-  Protecting the monarch under the ESA could be great news for the monarchs. It will provide increased funding and coordination and expand awareness of the ongoing work to save this iconic butterfly species.
-  ESA is one of our nation's most successful conservation laws, with 99 percent of listed species currently saved from extinction. With this proposed listing as threatened under the ESA, the service can tailor species-specific rules for the species' recovery.

ELEVATE HENNEPIN

Did you know local businesses here and across Hennepin County are eligible to receive no-cost business advising and consulting services? The City of Loretto is proud to collaborate in Hennepin County's Elevate Hennepin initiative to bring expert advising and other business resources to Loretto's businesses at no cost.

Elevate Hennepin provides three services:

- No-cost consulting from expert advisors covering everything a business needs from day one to a regional enterprise.
- A suite of group-training opportunities where peers can develop their networks, learn, and enhance their businesses together.
- A resource directory for business owners to explore county, state, and federal resources and events that can empower their business.

Whatever business challenges you're facing, Elevate Hennepin business advisors have expertise in all manner of topics. To get started, visit Elevate Hennepin by scanning the QR Code. You can connect with an advisor or an Elevate Hennepin Business Navigator to identify your best next step.



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.

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR LAKES AND STREAMS

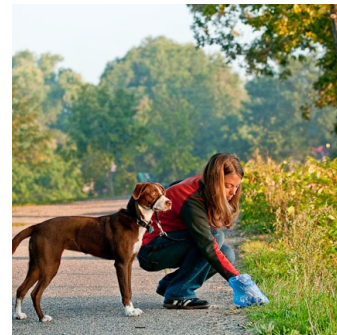
Minnesota is home to thousands of lakes, rivers and streams that are threatened by increasing development and pollution. While it may seem like protecting water quality in Minnesota is out of your control, there are many easy and inexpensive steps you can take to make a positive impact on water resources.

Get started by taking these five actions:

Use your runoff: Keep water in your yard and reduce runoff by directing downspouts onto your lawn or garden or into a rain barrel. Rainwater is free and naturally "soft," so it is ideal to use in watering your lawn or garden.



Don't rake grass clippings and leaves into the street: Leave them on your lawn, use them for compost, or bag them up. Grass clippings and leaves left in the street end up in the storm sewer, where they are carried to nearby lakes and streams. Clippings and leaves contain phosphorus and other nutrients that feed algae and other aquatic plants. This can cause excess algae growth that can negatively impact plants and wildlife and can be unsafe for pets.



Scoop the poop: Grab a bag when you grab the leash and pick up after your pets. Pet waste left on the ground can be washed into lakes and rivers with rainwater and runoff. Pet waste contains bacteria that can cause illness in humans and animals.



Use chemicals wisely: Read and follow the label instructions when using herbicides and pesticides. Use the minimum amount needed to control the problem. If you can, consider using alternative or natural remedies to control weeds and pests, or remove the problem by hand.

Fertilize smart: Sweep up any fertilizer that spills onto hard surfaces. Excess fertilizer washes away into nearby lakes or streams where it can feed algae, causing rapid growth known as algae blooms. Algae blooms stress fish and wildlife and make swimming and fishing unpleasant or impossible.

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

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WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS UNTIL 3/31/26

There is no parking on city streets between 2am and 7am, with the exception of Medina Street, where parking is prohibited between 2:30 and 6:30am year-round. The restrictions are in effect until **March 31st**. Police enforce this ordinance to keep the streets clear for snowplowing. If you have any questions regarding the parking ordinance, please contact City Hall.



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Send your children on a fun-filled adventure this summer in Three Rivers Park District, where they will gain an appreciation for nature while participating in hands-on recreational and nature programs. Can't afford to send your child to an expensive, faraway overnight camp this year? No problem. Three Rivers offers affordable day camps for children ages 5-15 at Baker Park Reserve. Camps include, family camp, fishing camp, naturalist camp, outdoor science camp and more! For more information visit ThreeRiversParks.org

