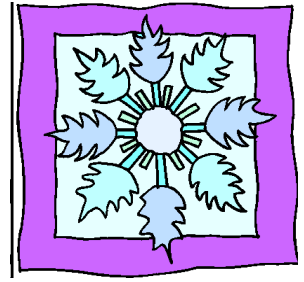


# The City Newsletter

News for Loretto City Residents December 2009



## Winter Parking Restrictions

Loretto residents are reminded that winter parking rules are in effect from November 1 through March 31. On-street parking is prohibited on all city streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., with the exception of Medina Street, where parking is prohibited between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. year-round.



## Cold Weather Rule

This Rule, which took effect on October 15, protects residential customers from disconnection of their natural gas service during the heating season. It also requires utilities to reconnect customers whose service has been disconnected. CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers who are concerned about paying their natural gas bills this winter to contact them to learn about their rights and responsibilities under the Rule. CenterPoint Energy is also providing residents with information about financial assistance to assist in paying bills. Customer inquiries about the Rule should call 612-372-4680 or 1-800-245-2377.

## Direct Payment of Utility Bill Available

If you would like your utility bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, a form is available at City Hall or you can print it off Loretto's website ([www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us).) Click on "Utilities", then on "Utility direct payment plan and authorization". It's easy and will save you money, too. And no more late fees!

## Utility Bill Tips

If your water bill seems high, don't blame your water officials. Dripping faucets and other leaks waste water and energy! Did you know that water waste at 40 lbs. pressure:

- 1/32 leak wastes 170 gallons in 24 hours
- 1/16 leak wastes 970 gallons in 24 hours
- 1/8 leak wastes 3,600 gallons in 24 hours

## 2010 Holiday Train

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 Sunday, December 14th, 2008 at 4:15 pm. The train will make a one hour stop in Loretto. During the stop there will be musical performances aboard the train by Melainie Doane and Shaun Verreault. Santa will also be aboard the train!



Beginning at 3:00 pm that day, local area businesses and volunteers will be hosting Holiday Festivities on Railway Street West. This will include a visit from Santa, and caroling by the Saints Peter & Paul Academy. Road closures will begin a 2:00 pm, with shuttle service and parking provided at the Loretto Softball Fields and Saints Peter and Paul Church.

The main purpose of this Holiday Train event is to raise money and non-perishable food donations for the Hanover Food Shelf, which serves our community, and the Delano Food Shelf. There are collection sites set up in local area businesses and there will be collections sites at the event. Please come and enjoy this wonderful event and participate in the opportunity to help out your neighbors.

If you would like to know the history and success of this wonderful Holiday Train as it has crossed the USA for the past 10 years, please log on to the Canadian Pacific Railroad's website at:

[www.cpr.ca](http://www.cpr.ca)

**City of Loretto**  
259 N. Medina Street  
P.O. Box 207  
Loretto, MN 55357

763-479-4305 (phone)  
763-479-2685 (fax)  
e-mail: [cpanode@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:cpanode@ci.loretto.mn.us)  
Website: [www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us)

City Hall Office Hours:  
Monday 9:00-2:00  
Wednesday 9:00-2:00  
Friday 9:00-2:00

**Mayor**  
Barry Andersen

**Council Members**  
Clark Lohr  
Jeff Tepfer  
Jeff France  
Brenda Daniels

**City Clerk**  
Cindy Patnode  
[cpanode@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:cpanode@ci.loretto.mn.us)

**Utility Clerk**  
Kathy Larkin  
[kathylarkin11@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylarkin11@yahoo.com)

**City Treasurer**  
Joyce Spurzem

**Public Works**  
Jeff Leuer  
Rich Arens

**Parks**  
Herb Koch



### All About Storm Drains

Nonpoint Source Pollution is pollution that can't be traced to a specific point, because it comes from many individuals. We all contribute—rainwater washes pollutants found in our soil, streets, and driveways into the storm drains.

We tend to believe that the water, which runs down the 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 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.

### It's safer to Hit a Deer than to Swerve

Drivers are more likely to be injured taking evasive action than from striking the deer itself, according to data from the Department of Public Safety.

According to the Department of Public Safety: Motorists facing an unavoidable crash with a deer should resist the instinct to swerve out of the way.

It's safer to hit a deer than to risk hitting another vehicle or roadside object. Apply your brakes firmly, hold onto the steering wheel, and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.

### Be Responsible and Clean up after your Pets. It's easy as 1-2-3

1. Bring a bag
  2. Clean it up.
  3. Dispose of waste properly in the toilet or trash.
- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
  - 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.



### Update on Bike Path

- .Center line moved back in place through Loretto.
- All utility work completed.
- Final asphalt for bike trail will be completed in Spring of 2010, along with medians on both sides of the railroad tracks.
- More updates on Web Site. [www.ci.loretto.mn.us](http://www.ci.loretto.mn.us)



### Extra Leaves

Call Randy's for your extra bags of leaves (763-972-3335).

Randy's will pick up your extra bags of leaves \$16.00 minimum charge up to 8 bags, any bags over 8 there will be a \$2.00 charge for each. Remember for your Spring Clean Up. See insert regarding use of new bags that will be in effect Jan 1, 2010.

### Stop Falls due to ice and snow

We are all at risk of falling mainly because of our snowy icy winters. Here are a few tips to keep you safe.

- Focus on where you step.
- Park near light source
- Walk on pavement, when able, and try to avoid patches of ice and shortcuts.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the weather
- If you see someone putting themselves at risk of a fall, let them know
- Manage your time to avoid running
- Always focus on where you walk
- As always, be considerate of others.

### Fun Christmas Recipe to make with your kids!

Put Christmas shape pretzels on cookie sheet

Top each with a Rolo Candy

Heat in 350 oven until starting to melt, remove from oven

Top with a pecan or M&M

Fun for kids and great to eat!



The Loretto City Council has re-entered into a contract with the Medina Police Department for coverage through the year 2014.

**Budget Hearing**

The Loretto City Council will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7 p.m. to discuss and adopt the 2010 Budget for all funds. The levy amount that is proposed for adoption in the General Fund is \$305,000 (this is the amount that gets certified to property taxes and divided amongst all property owners). The levy amount that was approved for 2009 was \$301,401. This is an increase of \$3,599.

The Council will also hold a public meeting on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss utility rate increases. Currently, our Wastewater (sewer) Fund is operating in a deficit and has been for a number of years. There are a number of major projects that need to be undertaken to keep our sewer lines flowing in the correct direction. Examples are: correcting a backflow on sewer pipe that is under County Road 19; correct a dip in the existing line east of County Road 19; different options to maintain our pond discharge requirements as set forth by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. All of these require additional money. The Council had a rate study completed in 2007 which indicated to increase the wastewater fund rates. The Council has done step increases to that fund from a minimum of \$15 per 4,000 gallons in 2007 to the 2009 rate of \$24 per 4,000 gallons. Even with those step increases, we have continually been deficit spending. The other funds are close to a balanced budget of revenue and disbursements. A slight increase will be considered for those funds.

The December 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting will be to get input from citizens, work on rates that are fair, and to get close to a balanced budget in all utility funds. Your input is valued! Please plan on attending Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.



**Unwanted Holiday Lights**

Randy's has agreed to pick up unwanted strands of Holiday lights and electrical cords for our customers in Randy's Recycle programs. Residents can simply put the strand in their recycle bins. They may also do this again next year.

**Snow Plowing Reminder**

Residents and Businesses are reminded that they can't remove snow and pile it on others private property or on the street.

. Snow can't be pushed across streets to others private property . You are responsible for your snow removal, please be considerate of others.



**More Fun Fest Donations**

**Thank You to All**

Fun Fest Fireworks-Dick's Auto Detailing,  
Patriot Erectors

Helped Sponsor DJ - HJ Development & Medina Elec  
Loretto Lion's—Donated Funds for the kiddie train &

Proceeds from Bingo

Loretto Fire Dept.—Proceeds from Cow-a-bunga

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE 2009 LORETTO  
FUN FEST!**

Cub Scout Pack #572

Girl Scout Troop #10898

Legend Services

Loretto Fire Department

Loretto Knights of Columbus

Loretto Lion's

Loretto Post Office

Medina Police

Camp Iduhapi

21<sup>st</sup> Century Bank Employees

Chris Menard

Pair-A-Dice Cruisers Club

Northland Oliver Club

North Memorial Air Care

Hennepin County K-9 Unit

**And the Fun Fest Committee**

City Staff

Ed Belland

Tim Pivec

Walt White

John Nelson

Cindy Spaulding

Pat Weber

Steve Lundell

Roy Spurzem

Kay Schumacher

**Christmas Tree Removal**

Randy's will be picking up Christmas Trees in January, last year pricing was \$6.00 for bagged tree or \$3.00 if not bagged. We will Update on Web site when date and prices are know.



# Have fun, & Merry Christmas!

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## Holiday Train 2009

Sponsored by Loram Maintenance of Way, Inc.,  
Doboszinski & Sons, the Hanover Food Shelf,  
and the City of Loretto

The Canadian Pacific Railroad Holiday Train will stop in Loretto along West Railway Street from approximately 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. on Monday, December 14. Loretto is the main stop as the train comes out of Minneapolis. The Holiday Train is decorated with 8,000 Christmas lights and will carry Santa Claus and several musicians.

Loram Maintenance of Way, Inc. of Medina will serve cocoa and cookies. St Peter & Pauls School choir will entertain. A kiddie train will be available for small children to ride. Santa will also be on site, along with a horse & wagon ride. Don't miss this festive event! City volunteers are also needed. Please call City Hall (763-479-4305) if you can help.



### FOCUS IS ON THE FOOD BANKS

The focus of the Holiday Train is to raise food, money and awareness for North American food banks. The City of Loretto will be assisting the Hanover Food Shelf (located in St. John's Lutheran Church, Hanover). This food shelf serves Loretto. Also receiving donations is the Delano Food Shelf. Here's how you can help:

- Send a check to the Loretto City Hall made out to the Hanover Food Shelf (*we will then send the checks to Hanover.*) Money is preferred as the food shelf is able to purchase food at greatly reduced prices.
- Drop off any food at City Hall before December 13, OR
- Bring food and/or money to the event and place it in the Doboszinski & Son's semi-trailer which will be located on W. Railway Street.
- If you are a customer of 21st Century Bank, the bank is matching food shelf donations made at the bank dollar for dollar.

### TIPS FOR FOOD DONATIONS

Please bring only non-perishable food items. Consider bringing baby food or food for small children, such as peanut butter and jelly. Again, money is desirable as food can be purchased at greatly reduced prices by the Food Shelf.

### TIPS FOR THE MONDAY NIGHT EVENT

We are planning for over 1,000 people at the event depending on the weather. The crowd will be large since Loretto is the only stop in the western suburbs. Two shuttle busses will be available. Please assist the City by following these suggestions.

- Walk if at all possible. Dress warmly. A shuttle bus will be available to assist you running between the parking lot at the ball field, the church parking lot and West Railway Street.
- Invite family and friends to the event and have them park at your house.
- Mail your check or donate food early.
- Don't park an extra car in the downtown area before the event to "reserve" a good location. Parking downtown is very limited.
- Decorate your house for the season. Make sure your lights are on that night!



# City of Loretto

259 North Medina Street

P.O. Box 207

Loretto, MN 55357

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## Holiday Lighting Contest

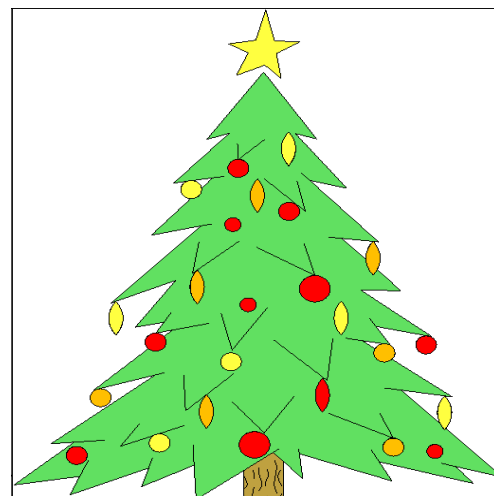
The City of Loretto is sponsoring their annual Holiday Lighting Contest.

Judging will take place on the evenings of December 11th, 12th and 13th with the Medina Police serving as judges.

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. Tim Pivec, owner of West Hennepin Auto and Tire will be donating the prizes. (Oil changes)
- 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.

Awards will be announced at the January 12, 2010 City Council Meeting. Please call City Hall (763-474305) if you have any questions.



## Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots are again sponsored by the Medina Police Department and the Loretto Fire Department with Loretto City Hall, and 21st Century Bank being drop-off sites. Please drop-off new unwrapped toys at any of the above named locations no later than Tuesday, December 15th. City Hall is open M,W, F from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

