



Lauderdale
POPULATION 2,379

Lauderdale Crier

City of Lauderdale, MN

April-June 2020

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Message from the Mayor

So much has changed since our last newsletter. Back then the coronavirus was yet unnamed, hadn't entered the United States, and social distancing was an elective activity. Our lives have been turned upside down as many of us work from home, teach our kids from home, and listen to public health updates in the hope for some good news. Those with loved ones working outside of the home carry the additional stress of wondering if they will get ill.

There are many things to be thankful for as we navigate these stormy days together. I especially thank our police officers, firefighters, and public works staff who continue to respond to calls and keep the city functioning as normally as possible. Plans to finish Eustis Street, update the playground equipment at Skyview Park, and reconstruct the storm water pond in the south part of the City continue to be on the docket for 2020.

I also am thankful for our partners at CTV North Suburbs and the City of Roseville. When it became apparent that holding our March 24 meeting at City Hall could endanger the public, CTV had a solution available that allowed us to begin holding remote meetings. Our efforts with them continue as we work towards a solution that will allow for more robust public input through channels that work for all levels of technology users. Similarly, our contract with the City of Roseville for IT services made it instantly possible for administrative staff to work from home to keep city business moving forward. Now we are looking ahead to when we all return to work but operate differently than before.

I especially thank our residents who have taken the Governor's Orders seriously. From a safe distance, I see you on your daily walks, out biking with your kids, and getting your pets' exercise. As council and staff, we respond to the research and recommendations coming from public health leaders. We also take our responsibility to educate and enforce the Governor's Orders seriously. Thank you to those that helped us address the use of Community Park by large groups. These groups were dispersed by our police officers who used the opportunity to educate them about how the coronavirus spreads.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as we figure out next steps in the weeks and months ahead. As there is no playbook for managing through a pandemic, we appreciate your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mary Gaasch

Due to Covid-19

May / June Community
Events Cancelled

The City will NOT
promote the annual City
-Wide Garage Sale in
May. Individuals may
hold sales at their
discretion.

The June Farmers
Market is cancelled.
Look for information in
the next newsletter
about Day in the Park
and Halloween.

APRIL — JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 14 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |
| Tuesday, April 28 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |
| Tuesday, May 12 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |
| Saturday, May 16 | City Wide Garage Sale Cancelled | |
| Monday, May 25 | City Hall Closed for Memorial Day | |
| Tuesday, May 26 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |
| Tuesday, June 9 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |
| Thursday, June 18 | Farmers Market Cancelled | |
| Tuesday, June 23 | City Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. at City Hall |

CITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

City Hall Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone: (651) 792-7650 www.lauderdalemn.org

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Mary Gaasch
1736 Malvern St.; 651.645.5918

Council Member Jeffrey Dains
1743 Carl St.; 651.645.7068

Council Member Roxanne Grove
1966 Eustis St.; 612.402.0219

Council Member Kelly Dolphin
1611 Pleasant St.; 612.819.2316

Council Member Andi Moffatt
1773 Fulham St.; 651.917.3579

To send an email to all council and staff:
council@lauderdalemn.org

CITY STAFF

Main Office: 651.792.7650
Fax: 651.631.2066

Heather Butkowski 651.792.7657
City Administrator
heather.butkowski@lauderdalemn.org

Jim Bownik 651.792.7656
Assistant City Administrator
jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org

Miles Cline 651.792.7655
Deputy City Clerk
miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org

Dave Hinrichs 651.792.7661
Public Works Coordinator
david.hinrichs@lauderdalemn.org

Gordy Beck 651.792.7662
Maintenance
gordy.beck@lauderdalemn.org

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Emergency: 911
Police Department: 612.782.3350

Fire Emergency: 911
Fire Department: 651.792.7635

Ramsey County Dispatch: 911
Ramsey County Dispatch Non-emergency Number: 651.767.0640

Water Emergency (St. Paul Regional Water): 651.266.6868

Sewer Emergency: 911 or
651.767.0640

Illicit Discharges to the Storm Sewer:
911 or 651.792.7650 (business hours)

Xcel Energy Electric Emergency or
Outage: 1.800.895.1999

Xcel Energy Gas Emergency or Gas
Odor: 1.800.895.2999

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FORGIVABLE FINANCING FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Expensive utility bills and heating system repairs can be a difficult financial burden. The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) has partnered with Ramsey County to offer an Energy Conservation Deferred Loan. The loan is 0% interest, has no monthly payments, and is forgiven if the homeowner stays in their home for 10 years. Income limits apply.

Eligible projects include:

*furnace/boiler replacement * water heater replacement * attic and wall insulation*

To learn more or to get started call 651-789-5706 or visit www.mncee.org/ramsey.

Note from Xcel Energy

Scammers posing as utilities have been active in their efforts to take advantage of nervous customers. Please remember that Xcel Energy will not cut off service with a phone call. If a customer receives a suspicious call, they should hang up and reach out to Xcel Energy via the internet, mobile application, or contact information found on their bill. Our website www.xcelenergy.com has links to help customers impacted by the pandemic to work out a payment plan.

Additionally, we scoured stock rooms for personal protective equipment acquired in preparation for emergency situations. As a result, we have found healthy supplies of N95 and surgical masks. After carefully considering our own needs, we have distributed 86,000 masks to first responders and health workers in our region. You may have also heard that this week, we announced that we are dedicating more than \$20 million to short and long-term corporate giving, including COVID 19 response and recovery, to help our communities now and in the future.



Volunteer with St. Anthony Park Area Seniors!

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors (SAPAS) fosters community well-being by connecting volunteers to enhance the independence and well-being of their senior neighbors through a four-part program of services: at-home living assistance, wellness activities, nursing care, and caregiver support.

We serve seniors and caregivers who live in Lauderdale, the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul, and Falcon Heights west of Cleveland Avenue.

At this time, all group wellness activities have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to return to activities at “full strength” soon!

If you are a **senior** and are looking for spring yard clean-up, rides to essential medical appointments, grocery delivery at no charge from a volunteer (or from Speedy Market on Fridays), please let us know.

We are accepting **new volunteers** who are interested in serving seniors during this pandemic. If you are available to volunteer, please contact us.

To find out more about our program visit our website at www.sapaseniors.org. We can be reached at office@sapaseniors.org or 651-642-9052. We return messages during the week, so don't be shy about leaving one for us!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Know What NOT to Flush

What we flush impacts the environment

When we flush the wrong things down the toilet or drain, it creates problems for pipes and pumps in the wastewater system and can also harm the environment.

These items should NOT go down the toilet or drain

- Wipes, tissues & paper towels
- Tampons & sanitary pads
- Oil-based hand scrubs
- Cotton swabs & cotton balls
- Dental floss
- Oil and grease
- Cat litter
- Condoms
- Medicines
- Rags

Bottom line: If it isn't toilet paper or doesn't come out of your body, throw it in the trash!

"Flushable" wipes

Tossing so-called "flushable" wipes, paper towels, tissues, tampons, and other dense paper materials into the toilet could end up costing you quite a bundle. These items do not biodegrade easily or quickly. Wipes and tampons can get stuck in the

narrow sanitary sewer service pipe that connects homes and businesses to the city's wastewater collection system.

If you pour grease or other congealing products down the kitchen sink, these attach to the wipes, causing "fatbergs" to form. The result can be clogged pipes, sewage back-ups into homes, and potentially expensive repairs.

Pharmaceuticals and other chemicals

Flushing unwanted medications and household chemicals can harm populations of fish and other aquatic life found in our area rivers, even at very low levels. These are referred to as contaminants of emerging concern, and their long-term effects are not fully understood.

Household hazardous wastes, such as unwanted paints, solvents, automotive chemicals, used motor oil, herbicides, and pesticides should not be flushed or poured down the drain.

Microplastics

Tiny pieces of plastic (<5mm) referred to as "microplastics" are being found throughout the

environment and are a source of concern. Fish and other wildlife often mistake microplastics for food. These microplastics are even being found in our drinking water, including bottled water. Modern wastewater treatment does a good job removing most (~97%) microplastics, however this means that some microplastics are still entering our area rivers. Plastic fibers are the most common and troublesome form of microplastic, thousands of these microfibrils can be shed each time clothing items made from synthetic materials are washed.

What can you do?

- Dispose of unused medication at the St. Anthony Police Department (3301 Silver Lake Road NE in St. Anthony).
- Dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste at a Ramsey County drop site (651-633-3279).
- Avoid single-use plastics, such as water bottles, utensils, and shopping bags.
- Make sure whatever plastics you do use are recycled or put in the trash.
- Consider wearing clothing made from natural fibers.

Assistance for Removal of Diseased Trees

The first Minnesota trees with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were found at the I-94 and TH280 intersection ten short years ago. The spread and damage of the insect are more apparent each year. The City has been removing diseased park and boulevard trees

each year and anticipate that will continue until the ash trees are gone.

As private trees are not immune to EAB, the City Council recognizes the spread of this insect creates a financial liability to home owners with ash trees. In response, the City Council has approved the use of "petition and waiver" agreements to pay for the upfront costs

of removing diseased and hazardous trees. This allows homeowners to spread the costs of diseased tree removal over a couple of years by paying back the expense via special assessments.

If you have a tree you are concerned about, contact city staff to learn more about the process.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Are you Ready to Vote? Primary Election Day is August 11

The Primary Election will be held on August 11. Currently, polls are scheduled to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Lauderdale City Hall. Primary voters vote for candidates from one political party. Sample ballots will be available on the Secretary of State's website beginning **May 1**. Due to the coronavirus, the state legislature is discussing voting alternatives but they are not in place as we go to print.

However, all Minnesota residents are able to vote by mail by applying for an absentee ballot. The online

absentee ballot application for the August primary and November general election will be available on the Secretary of State's (SOS) website starting **May 13**. The mail-in absentee ballot applications are available from city staff or the SOS's website right now. Please let staff know if you would like one mailed to you.

New residents are encouraged to register ahead of Election Days to provide for a streamlined voting experience. Request a voter registration form from <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/>. Please continue to monitor updates from the Secretary of State, Minnesota legislature, and City of Lauderdale for any changes with voting this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Election Judges Needed!

Until the state legislature determines otherwise, the City will continue to plan for in-person voting in 2020. This means we continue to look for election judges for the August 11 primary election and the November 3 general election. Enjoy serving your neighbors and being a part of history. You may choose from full day or half day shifts with training

provided. To qualify, you must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and able to read, write, and speak in English. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Miles Cline, Deputy City Clerk, at 651.792.7650 or by e-mail at miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org. City staff will be in contact with election judges after there is guidance from the Secretary of State's office and the Minnesota legislature about how the elections will be run in 2020.

It's Time to Respond to the 2020 Census

Please visit <http://my2020census.gov/> to respond online today. We need everyone to be counted, because data from the census determines how \$15.5 billion in federal funds are distributed across Minnesota each year for things like health care, education, and roads.

After you've completed the census, please remind at least three friends and encourage them to respond too. Help us spread the message that everyone should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time as of April 1; and everyone who usually lives and sleeps in their household should be included in their count.

While the Census continues to make adjustments based on the COVID-19 outbreak, it is important to remember: it has never been easier for people to respond on their own, from the safety of their home. You can fill out your form online at <http://my2020census.gov/> or on the phone by calling 844-330-2020 (phone support is also available in 13 non-English languages; visit the Census Bureau website <http://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html> to learn more). Responding now will minimize the need to send census takers out into communities to follow up.

If you have questions about the census, you can text them to 662020, or visit the We Count Minnesota website at <http://mn.gov/admin/2020-census/> to learn more.

PUBLIC SAFETY



What is a Crime of Opportunity?

By Officer Tressa Sunde

The Wikipedia Definition:

A crime of opportunity is a crime that is committed without planning when the perpetrator sees that they have the chance to commit the act at that moment and seize it. Such acts have little or no premeditation.

Below are common crimes of opportunity that encompasses the majority of the crimes seen in the city of Lauderdale.

Theft from Auto
Theft of Auto
Garage Burglary

Motor Vehicle Tampering
Bicycle Theft
Home Burglary

These crimes occur when unlocked vehicles are parked on the street or in an unlocked garage. Keys left in vehicles, valuables left in vehicles, and unlocked house doors and windows are other easy target areas for criminals to take advantage of. Leaving bicycles visible in yards or in a garage with the overhead or service door open can 'invite' the unwanted criminal onto your property.

How you can prevent being a victim of a crime of opportunity.

LOCK YOUR VEHICLE!

If you do not have to park on the street, don't! Park in your driveway or garage.

Do not leave keys in your vehicle, this includes house keys.

Do not leave valuables in the vehicle, if you must, put them out of sight or in the trunk.

Do not leave bicycles or toys laying in the yard, put them away.

Lock all entrances to garages and homes.

Install rods or nails in window frames to allow windows to only open a couple inches.

This is not a complete list of preventative measures, but it's a good start!

Accessing City Services During Stay at Home Orders

Even while working from home, city staff are available to respond to your needs. Among the most common requests are for permits, licenses, zoning applications, and public facility reservations. Following are the ways to get the most direct assistance.

- Construction related permits and licenses continue to be processed daily. We recommend emailing them to Miles Cline at miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org or mailing the paper forms to City Hall. Payments can be made via credit card or by mailing in a check.
- Zoning questions and applications can be sent to jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org. This would include applications for signs, fences, retaining walls, driveways, parking pads, variances, and lot splits.
- Reservations for the Social Room at City Hall and the picnic shelter are currently on hold. Once there is updated guidance on the congregation of groups, this will be revisited.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



What Is Lawns to Legumes?

This program is a collaboration between Blue Thumb, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and Minnesota residents to establish residential pollinator habitat to support at-risk pollinator species. A key focus: protecting the newly-named state bee, the Rusty Patched Bumblebee. Lawns to Legumes focuses on promoting four planting types. Some require more time, space, money, or maintenance than others, but we believe there is a project for just about everyone.

Minnesota is home to more than 450 native bee species. Pollinators also include butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, and flies. All play a key role in pollinating food crops and native plants, but populations have significantly declined worldwide in recent years. Population decline can be attributed to habitat loss and lack of related nutrition for pollinators, as well as pesticide use and pathogens.



The program aims to protect the federally endangered state bee, the Rusty Patched Bumblebee, and other at-risk pollinators. Even relatively small plantings of native flowers can help pollinators by building and connecting important habitat corridors. Blue Thumb is coordinating the "Individual Support" portion of this program that involves a combination of cost-share funding, workshops, landowner coaching, and site visits.

To apply for Lawns to Legumes Assistance, visit Blue Thumb at www.bluethumb.org. Learn more about Lawns to Legumes from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us>.

Illicit Discharge Fact Sheet

Have you seen neighbors blowing leaves or lawn clippings into the street? How about someone dumping paint or used oil into the storm drain? Have you seen murky water running along the curb? What we do at home affects our local water resources because our storm drains and ditches are connected to nearby lakes, rivers, and streams. Remember, **only rain down the drain**.

As a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community, Lauderdale regulates non-stormwater discharges to the storm drainage system. City Code Title 8, Chapter 5 contains enforcement actions the City takes in the event an illicit discharge occurs.

Common sources of illicit discharge include:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Sediment from construction site runoff
- Landscape waste
- Paints, solvents
- Used oil, radiator flushing, grease
- Cleaning products
- Spills from accidents
- Household toxics
- Laundry wastewater
- Illegal connections to the storm sewer system
- Commercial car wash wastewater

If discovered, please contact the City at (651) 792-7650.



City of Lauderdale

1891 Walnut Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113
www.lauderdalemn.org

**Return Service
Requested**



Shop at City Hall for Lauderdale branded short and long-sleeve t-shirts, hoodies, history books, and mugs. We also have free VHS copies of the 50th anniversary celebration for you to take home!

The City would appreciate your feedback! Please feel free to call or visit us at City Hall or email your questions or comments to admin@lauderdalemn.org. Also, please contact City Hall with any changes to your name, address, or phone number.