

Lauderdale
POPULATION 2,379



Lauderdale Crier

City of Lauderdale, MN

January-March 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents,

What a year! But we got through it together. Before looking ahead to 2021, I want to reflect on what happened in Lauderdale in 2020.

We appreciate the ease with which everyone found a new way to contact staff and council members in the spring. We believe we were able to continue providing all of our services just in a new format. This especially held true this year when we conducted three elections. Our regard for your safety and your regard for ours kept everyone safe.

The Farmers Markets and Day in the Park were cancelled due to the coronavirus but energetic residents did a phenomenal job providing a festive and reinvigorated Halloween event for us to enjoy. We thank them immensely and look forward to what we can do together in 2021.

In spite of the chaotic times, city projects moved ahead. The finishing touches were put on the Eustis Street improvement project while construction started on Seminary Pond and the ravines that feed it. Planning for these storm water improvements began close to six years ago. You can read more about this later in the newsletter. Skyview Park improvements were completed in time to get some play in before the snow flew.

This year brought the transition to fire services provided by the City of St. Paul. We receive fire services from professional firefighters from fire stations staffed 24/7 at a reasonable price. The St. Paul Fire Chief and City Council negotiated a contract that was a win-win for both cities.

You may be wondering how COVID-19 impacted city finances. Thankfully, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress provided the City with \$181,419. The money paid for the cleaning supplies and PPE you would expect but also covered the costs to transition staff to working from home in the spring; remote council meetings that were still streamed on cable and the web; and grants to help our businesses keep operating. Early on, we realized that we needed a more robust communication platform and that will be unveiled in 2021. All remaining CARES funds were allocated toward public safety costs. In short, the CARES funds left the City on solid footing as we start the new year.

Similarly, the value from the six new homes and the reinvestment by our multi-family property owners helped the Council keep this year's property tax increase to a minimum with most of us seeing a reduction in our city property taxes. The new property value coming onto the tax rolls helps keep taxes as low as possible. We look forward to transferring ownership of the former Lauderdale School in the new year so that will become a taxable property along with providing new homes for many of our residents.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mary Gaasch



Photo: Mae and Bea Eisenschenk and Chloe Murray enjoying the Skyview Park on a warm fall day.

JANUARY — MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, January 1	New Year's Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, January 12	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, January 26	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 9	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 15	Presidents Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, February 23	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.

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 Duane Pulford
1757 Eustis St.; 507.254.5166

Council Member Andi Moffatt
1773 Fulham St.; 651.917.3579

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

CITY STAFF

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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: 651.224.7811

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

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Community Input Sought to Prioritize Future BRT Lines



Network Next is a 20-year plan for expanding and improving the Metro Transit bus network. With the METRO A and C lines serving customers, and the METRO D, B, and E lines planned to open by 2024, Metro Transit is working to identify the next bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors.

BRT provides frequent service (about every ten minutes), faster trips, and more amenities at stations like electronic NexTip signage, heat, and security cameras. Three corridors will be named for implementation as the METRO F, G, and H Lines. The field of options will be narrowed by survey whereby community members voice their priorities.

After a summer of listening to and learning from the public, Metro Transit identified the top candidates for future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines as part of Network Next. Now, the metro-wide community is asked to rank the top corridors to help prioritize implementation using an online survey.

The corridors to choose from are:

- Central (Route 10)
- **Como/Maryland (Route 3)**
- Johnson/Lyndale (Route 4)
- Rice/Robert (Routes 62 and 68)

All Lauderdale residents are encouraged to complete the survey and cast your vote for Route 3. Our bus riders know that Route 3 is our most used service in the area with the connection at Como Avenue and Eustis Street. Even if you are not a bus user, please complete the survey. The investment in the enhanced bus service will have ripple effects for our desirability as a place to live and help our local businesses.

Community members are encouraged to take the survey until it closes on January 20, 2021.

The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/futurebus>



Assistance for 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.

Live group wellness activities aren't being held due to the COVID-19 pandemic but other services continue. If you are a senior looking for rides to essential medical appointments, grocery delivery at no charge from a volunteer or from Speedy Market, please let us know. We also host virtual lunch gatherings where we eat, chat, and play BINGO together. Let us know if you would like to participate. We also offer exercise classes online. Please contact our office to sign up for our chair yoga class, which runs from January 8-February 26, 2021. We also offer fee-based services including nursing and therapy through *Recover Health*; foot care services by RNs; handyman services; and well-being checks.

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 please leave one for us!

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Fence Ordinance Amended

The City Council spent 2020 studying the fence ordinance and whether to make changes based on recent requests by homeowners. Of particular interest to the Council was addressing public safety issues, especially sight lines; aesthetic standards; and making the ordinance easier to understand.

For perspective, the Council looked at neighboring cities' ordinances (Roseville, Falcon Heights, St. Anthony, Minneapolis, and St. Paul). While many ordinance provisions remained, the Council made some notable changes. They created standards for front yard fences and clarified the process to apply for a front yard fence. They also set standards for fences for interior lots and corner lots. All of these changes are available on the City's website. We encourage you to take a look and let staff know if you have questions.



2021 Council Meeting Schedule

In 2021, the City Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. The meetings will be held virtually until the emergency declaration is rescinded. Mark your calendars for the following meeting nights.

January 12 & 26
February 9 & 23
March 9 & 23
April 13 & 27
May 11 & 25
June 8 & 22
July 13 & 27
August 10 & 24
September 14 & 28
October 12 & 26
November 9 & 23
December 14

New Communication Tools Coming in 2021

Staff have recognize the need to improve our communication methods for some time. Right now our website, email lists, Facebook and Nextdoor pages don't all have the same content all of the time. Depending on where people get their information, they may be more or less informed about City happenings. Our current website is neither ADA accessible nor does it have an archiving function so that you can look back at the history of city projects and city council decisions.

That will change in 2021. COVID-19 pushed the need for better communication tools and the CARES Act brought the funding to make it possible. CivicPlus was chosen as the vendor. They specialize in municipal government websites as cities and counties have to meet accessibility and records retention requirements that prevent us from buying off-the-shelf types of products. Staff has been working with CivicPlus to come up with a more intuitive and attractive design and now we are rebuilding the content.

Most importantly, the new website will become the hub of our communication platform. All city news updates will start with a post on the website to which subscribers will be alerted to by email or text. This guarantees that our information gets to you quickly and consistently. Right now we have over 500 residents and business owners who receive city emails. If you receive city emails, we will move your contact information over to the new system. At that point, you will be able to decide whether you want to stick with emailed alerts or get notices via text message. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please let us know if you are not on the City's email list. Until the new website is revealed, it is still the best tool we have for getting information to you quickly.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Skating Rinks and Sledding

Community Park is a great place to find a sledding hill and both a hockey rink and free skate rink. The rinks are located at 1885 Fulham Street.

Flooding for the skating season is underway. Our flooding crew has been working diligently to build and maintain the ice. Some years the weather makes that a slower process than we would like. This is one of those years.

Due to COVID-19, the City will not staff the warming house this year. There just isn't enough space in the building to meet safety protocols. We encourage you to take advantage of the park this winter for some great outdoor activity and exercise.



Garbage and Recycling Bins

This is a reminder to not put recycling and garbage bins in the street for collection. They become traffic hazards and obstacles for the snow plows. Also remember to remove them from the curb Monday night after the trucks have been through.

1795 Eustis Street Redevelopment

This fall, Real Estate Equities (REE) submitted their third/final application for a planned unit development for the former Lauderdale School. They propose building a 114-unit affordable senior housing complex. Their application for the project along with their application for the vacation of the alley to Malvern Street were considered by the City Council in November. As an affordable project, REE needs to receive a tax credit allocation from the State of Minnesota. The project has been on the waiting list. The allocations are made in January but we don't have the results as of the newsletter going to print. We are optimistic the project will receive the tax credits which means closing would happen in late spring with construction starting later this year. Updates will be available at council meetings and via the e-mail distribution list.

Deterra Drug Deactivation Bags Available at City Hall

Lauderdale residents now have two methods for disposing of unwanted prescription drugs. Our last newsletter mentioned that SAPD has a medical waste collection bin located inside their lobby that is available during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday). Now, SAPD has Deterra drug deactivation system bags available at Lauderdale City Hall. Each bag disposes of 45 pills, 6 ounces of liquid, or 6 patches. You simply put the drugs inside the bag, fill with water, shake, and put in your trash can. If you are unable to come to City Hall, give city staff a call and we will have bags delivered to you.



Lions Club Offers Joe Barrett Scholarships for 2021 RAHS Graduates

Annually, the Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club offers \$1,000 Joe Barrett Scholarships for two 2021 Roseville Area High School (RAHS) graduates. The only selection criteria established by the Lions Club is that the recipients be residents of either Lauderdale or Falcon Heights. The Scholarship winners will be selected by the Roseville Area High School Scholarship Program committee. The scholarship application are available in Naviance and in the RAHS Career Center. Applications are due February 25.

UPDATES FROM PUBLIC SAFETY



Winter-Related Crime Trends and Weather Ordinances

by Sergeant Mike Huddle

We are well into our highly anticipated (or tolerated) Minnesota winter. With the changing of seasons, we learn to adapt our behaviors. We've ditched our LuluLemon shorts and flip flops in favor of Carhartt jackets and moon boots—it's what we do. It would be unwise and unsafe (and painfully unfashionable) if we didn't. And in addition to our clothing choices, we adapt in other ways. For example, you may choose to warm up your vehicle on a cold winter day. While doing this, we hope you're staying with (or inside of) your vehicle. Using a remote start would also be ideal (and fancy). Yet, if you choose to leave your vehicle unattended with its engine running, you're risking the possibility of your car becoming stolen. It is important to always remain with your vehicle while it warms to deter would-be thieves seeking an easy opportunity. Just think about how inconvenient it is to process an insurance claim, file a police report, and walk to your destination in the freezing cold? Although preventable, we see these types of thefts occurring every winter.

Lock the Ignition and Remove the Key

Quickly running into the gas station/store to pick up an item while leaving your vehicle running unattended is risky. It takes a thief a few seconds to jump into your vehicle and drive off - seconds. It may seem easy and convenient in the winter to leave your car running for your quick return; but is it worth the potential risk of having it stolen? And there's also that long cold walk home or to work...so cold.

Winter Parking Prohibitions during Snow Events

It's a good time to remind everyone about winter parking prohibitions during snow events (in Minnesota, it is always an event...never a dull moment). Ramsey County and city crews clear snow from streets to allow for safe passage of traffic and access for emergency vehicles. You're part of the solution when you move your vehicle off the street and park in a driveway or open parking lot. This allows for a quick clearing of snow on roadways. City ordinance prohibits parking a vehicle on any city street for a "period of 48 hours, commencing immediately after 2 inches or more of continuous snowfall" or until snow removal has been completed curb to curb. Please share this information with your guests and visitors so they can avoid being ticketed or having their vehicles plowed around.

A majority of thefts reported to the Police Department are due to unlocked vehicles. As always, please keep your vehicles locked and remove any valuables (including remote garage door openers) to help deter theft. You are more susceptible to additional crimes if your keys, garage door opener, and/or personal information happen to be stolen from your car.

Most of these measures are common sense and easy to implement. Take simple steps to adapt your behaviors this winter to protect yourself, your family, and your property. Winter already provides us with enough to contend with. Stay vigilant, stay safe, and stay warm.

If you'd like more crime information, prevention tips, reports, or have questions, please contact the St. Anthony Police Department at 612-782-3350. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for alerts, news, and updates. If you need to report a crime or suspicious activity, please call 911.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

THE TRUTH ABOUT SALT

There is no such thing as an environmentally friendly salt or deicer. All such chemicals cause damage to our waterbodies, plants, wildlife and infrastructure. You should avoid using them as much as possible.

WHEN TO USE SALT

If you apply salt or deicer, do it after the storm is finished. Clear off any loose and/or compacted snow first. Apply the product on ice only; do not apply it on dry pavement. Temperatures often drop after a snowstorm, so double-check the label on your salt or deicer product to make sure it will work before you apply it. Rock salt doesn't work below 15°F.

HOW MUCH SALT TO USE

More salt does not equal faster melting — just more pollution and wasted money. Shoot for a 3-inch spread between salt granules. For \$10–\$20, a hand spreader can make the job easier and more accurate. To be more exact, try to apply no more than 1 pound per 250 square feet of pavement. (*Tip: A regular-size coffee mug typically holds about 1 pound of salt.*)

WHAT ABOUT SAND?

Use sand when it's too cold for salt to work. Sprinkle just enough to provide traction on walkways. Sweep up any excess after the ice melts so that it doesn't get carried into storm drains. (Sand pollutes too.) Don't bother mixing sand and salt together. They serve two completely different purposes. Sand is useless in wet, melting snow and slush.

A SALTY MESS

Just one teaspoon of salt is enough to pollute five gallons of water - forever.

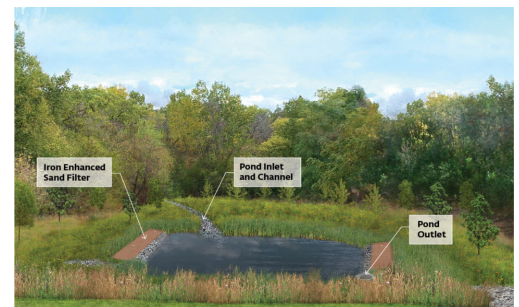
Salt and deicers contain chloride, which is toxic to fish and plants. When the snow and ice melt, the chloride travels through storm drains into our rivers and lakes. Once there, it's nearly impossible to remove.

Seminary Pond Storm Water Improvement Project

As the Mayor mentioned in her article, Capitol Regions Watershed District (CRWD); the cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights; Ramsey County; and the University of Minnesota are cooperating on a project to improve the run-off from 128 acres extending from Eustis Street through the University's golf course, and the Grove neighborhood of Falcon Heights. The rain water moves through man-made storm sewer systems that connect to ravines and ponds that eventually enter Seminary Pond. Seminary Pond is near the intersection of Carl Street and Idaho Avenue (near the old trolley tracks path used to get to the St. Paul Campus.

The project will remove an estimated 2.26 tons of sediment and 10.3 pounds of phosphorus annually from entering the Mississippi River. This is accomplished by:

- Removing 25-years of built up sediment in Seminary Pond
- Expanding the Pond's capacity by deepening it and raising an earthen berm
- Stabilizing the slopes and ravines leading to the pond
- Adding iron-enhanced sand filters on two edges of the pond to remove dissolved phosphorus (a pollutant in stormwater runoff that fuels algae growth)
- Improving wildlife habitat by controlling invasive plant species and adding native plants



If you are interested in learning more, check out the project page on CRWD's website at www.capitolregionwd.org or take a walk on the old trolley tracks. The project will be completed in the spring and is expected to look something like the rendering above when completed.

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.