

Lauderdale
POPULATION 2,271



Lauderdale Crier

City of Lauderdale, MN JANUARY-MARCH 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year,

We say thank you to out-going council members Roxanne Grove and Andi Moffatt. Roxanne joined the city council in 2010. Prior to and during her council terms, she worked tirelessly to organize fantastic city events, especially Halloween. Andi joined the city council in 2017. She brought valuable insights from her day job working for municipalities throughout Minnesota to the city council. Thank you for your service and best of luck!

The city council welcomes newly-elected council members Sharon Kelly and Evan Sayre. The community and the city council look forward to working with you.

The groundbreaking at 1795 Eustis Street happened since the last newsletter was published. The Fern, as it will be called, is going up quickly. See inside for information on how to get on the leasing waiting list.

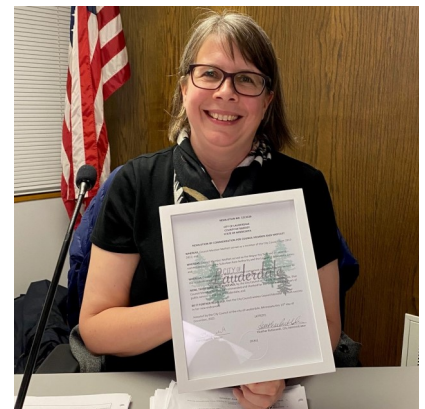
This past quarter, the city council discussed residential speed limits. The legislature recently gave authority to city councils to establish reduced speed limits on municipal streets which is why you may be seeing 20 and 25 MPH speed limits on your drives. We received a lot of valuable input from residents around the issue. To change to 20 MPH speed limits requires a speed study be completed. The city engineer is working on this now. The results are expected in late January. If the speed study supports 20 MPH speed limits, the city council can decide to implement that speed. If the report does not, the speed limits can be reduced to 25 MPH. Stay tuned.



October 6 groundbreaking at The Fern.



*Outgoing Council Members
Roxanne Grove (above) and
Andi Moffatt (below).*



Finally, I am excited to report that Maggie Duerwachter has joined our staff as an AmeriCorps Community Forestry Member. She will be with us until the end of July as a shared employee with the City of St. Anthony. More on her background is in this newsletter. This winter, she will be working on familiarizing herself with Lauderdale and updating our public tree inventory. More on her work will be in the next newsletter.

I look forward to a productive new year with new opportunities and challenges to tackle as a community.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mary Gaasch

JANUARY — MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 10	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King Jr Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, January 24	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 14	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 20	President's Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, February 28	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7	Eustis Street Open House at City Hall	5:30—7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28	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 Sharon Kelly
1814 Malvern St; 651.230.3062

Council Member Duane Pulford
1757 Eustis St; 507.254.5166

Council Member Evan Sayre
1841 Carl St; 651.343.2782

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

Gordy Beck 651.792.7662
Public Works Utilities and Maintenance
gordy.beck@lauderdalemn.org

Tom Douvier 651.792.7661
Public Works Utilities and Maintenance
tom.douvier@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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The following was produced by the League of Minnesota Cities regarding the state's non-income dependent property tax rebate program.

Targeting Property Tax Refund

The Targeting Property Tax Refund is also called the Special Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund. It directs property tax relief to homeowners who experience a large increase in property taxes due from one year to the next. *This program does not consider a homeowner's income.* Thus, homeowners who are not eligible for the circuit breaker tax refund may qualify for this targeting refund.

Qualifying homeowners have property tax increases of more than 12% and more than \$100 over the previous year's taxes. To be eligible, homeowners must currently own and live in the same house they lived in the previous year.

The refund is 60% of the increase in excess of the greater of 12% or \$100. For homeowners who make improvements to their homes, the portion of the property tax due to the improvements is subtracted when calculating the refund amount. In other words, increases in property taxes that result from increases in assessed value following improvements are not considered when determining eligibility for this refund.

The refund is calculated prior to the calculation of the Homestead Credit Refund.

Interest List for 1795 Eustis Street is Open

Good news for those that have been patiently waiting. The interest list for 1795 Eustis Street, which will be called *The Fern*, is available. Visit www.reeapartments.com/apartments/the-fern/ and click on "Join Interest List." Real Estate Equities (REE) will contact folks in the order of interest received when they start leasing. Currently, there are 60 people on the interest list. The building will have 114 units.

If you previously called or emailed REE with interest, please sign up through this format as well. There is no harm in adding your name to the interest list if you are even considering living there. Joining the interest list does not commit you to moving in should you change your mind. Rents are set by the federal government and the 2023 rents have not been set yet. The leasing process is expected to begin in May so there is no time like the present to join the interest list. If you don't have access to a device to get signed up online, please call staff and we will help you.



Winter Parking: Avoid Getting a Ticket

Winter parking restrictions begin after 2-inches of snowfall. All cars must be off the streets for 48-hours or until curb-to-curb snow removal has been completed *after the snow has stopped*.

During heavy snow events, plows may return a couple of times to keep the roads open; only after their final plow when the snow has stopped is it alright to move vehicles back onto the streets.

Avoid a ticket; if snow is predicted overnight, move your vehicles off the street ahead of time. Residents are welcome to park off of Roselawn Avenue in the Community Park parking lot until plowing is completed. Please move your vehicles from the parking lot after the roads are plowed so we can remove the snow. Occasionally, cars are left in the parking lot for days after a snow storm and we have to tow them. We would prefer not to have to do that.



CITY HALL UPDATES

Rink Hours (weather dependent) Lauderdale Community Park 1885 Fulham Street

Monday – Thursday: 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday: 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday: 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Open skating begins at noon on school release days for ISD #623.

The Warming House hours are posted on the calendar on the City's homepage. If weather doesn't cooperate or we are short staff, we may limit the hours of the Warming House. Those changes will be posted to the website.



Kurahjetz family on opening day at the Warming House.

Pet Ownership Rules

City staff have received a number of complaints recently about pets. Here are a few reminders:

- All dogs and cats must be registered with the City by six months of age.
- Dogs and cats must be confined to the owners' property by fencing, leash, or electronic fencing.
- Dogs and cats must be on leash in all public places including playgrounds, parks, and on the street.
- Persons in control of an animal must clean up and dispose of the animals droppings.

The two most frequent complaints are that owners don't clean up after their pets - be that at the park, at the dog park, or in the boulevards; and that dogs and cats are running off-leash. The only public place a dog can be off-leash is in the fenced in dog park area at Community Park. In all other areas of the park, dogs and cats must be leashed. Additionally, animals must be confined to their owners' yards by fencing or leash. Too often dogs and cats roam off property disturbing neighbors and pedestrians. Please consider your current pet practices and whether they align with city code. If they don't, please change them.

Ramsey County & Eustis Street

Ramsey County would like the City Council to take ownership of Eustis Street south of Larpenteur Avenue after they reconstruct it. Whether this would be a good idea is in part based on their plans for the street.

On March 7 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Ramsey County staff will be at Lauderdale City Hall to present their proposed models. There are many key issues but pedestrian access is a big one for those that catch the bus. Please mark your calendars and come to the event. More details will follow through email notices as we get closer to the event.

Swearing In Ceremony



Mayor Mary Gaasch was sworn in for a fourth term while newly elected Sharon Kelly and Evan Sayre were sworn in for their first city council term.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Saint Anthony Park
Area
SENIORS

The Original Living-At-Home Block Nurse Program

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors offer exercise classes, social outings, home health care visits, rides to medical appointments, and Meals-on-Wheels to help Lauderdale seniors live independently in their homes. To learn more, call 651.642.9052 or email office@sapaseniors.org. Here are some upcoming events.

Are you someone who takes care of your spouse or parent? We have volunteers and staff who want to support you. Visitors give caregivers a break. We also host a caregiver support group that meets online on the first Thursday each month at noon. We will be launching an in-person caregiver group in early 2023.

Is it becoming difficult to trim your own toe nails? We have an independent contractor foot care nurse available! She will be starting appointments at *Lauderdale City Hall* in late January. [See article below.](#)

If you need rides to health-related appointments, home chores, or visiting for a loved one while you “take a break,” contact us to get connected with one of our volunteers. Our volunteers are screened and follow COVID-19 protocols.

Our virtual lunch meet-ups happen every other Wednesday. We chat, play BINGO for prizes, and watch a short video that relates to the season or upcoming holiday. Participants can join by phone, computer, smartphone, or tablet. We have iPads and hot spots to lend if you need one in order to participate.

We continue to exercise together online through Zoom. We have a Tai Ji Quan class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and chair yoga on Monday mornings.

New Senior Service at Lauderdale City Hall

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors contracts with Nicole Hendrickson for senior foot care services. Nicole will be available at Lauderdale City Hall for weekday and weekend appointments this winter. Nicole was an intensive care nurse and paramedic for the last 17 years. Her background is in athletic training which makes her experience in management of injuries to the body valuable when learning how to decrease stress on the body. She turned her love for the body into a career in caring for clients' feet. Nicole listens to the needs of each client and guides each session with care. During your foot care session you will receive:

1. Lower leg and extremity skin exam
2. Foot soak with ultrasonic foot bath
3. Trimming and filing of toenails, sanding of callus, removal of corns
4. Gentle massage and moisturization
5. Recommendations on how to care for feet in the future

To learn more, call St. Anthony Park Area Seniors at 651.642.9052 or email office@sapaseniors.org.

Welcome Falcon Heights Plow Drivers

Ramsey County put the City on notice a few years ago that they planned to discontinue offering residential plowing services for the City. With staffing shortages, increasing demands, and equipment changes, they decided they could no longer provide plowing service to Lauderdale. It was a 30+ year partnership that worked well for both parties for many years. The City approached our neighboring communities to see if any of them could provide the service. Thankfully, the City of Falcon Heights answered the call.

As you may have noticed, some things will change. The most noticeable change is the timing of plowing. Falcon Heights has a crew running one daytime shift instead of a crew working around the clock so plowing will occur a little later. If you notice an issue, don't hesitate to bring it to staff's attention and we will work out any kinks with Falcon Heights.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES



Online Safety and Common Scams by Detective Kiel Rushton

Keeping up with family and friends with today's busy pace of life can be difficult. Social media has made keeping in touch easier. From family to friends, dating, networking, buying and selling, social media has changed the way we live our lives. While social media can be fun and convenient, there are some very common scams. While many are easy to spot, some are more deceptive and the consequences devastating.

Facebook Survey Apps: These third party applications appear to be legitimate. They often display as a survey such as "What is in your future?" or "What kind of job was meant for you?" These scams "phish" for your personal information. The app will use questions to try to guess your passwords and compromise more valuable accounts, such as your banking and financial accounts. Remember, certain information regarding your mortgages, properties, and other credit accounts are public information. They can easily be obtained by someone who knows what they're looking for. Figuring out your banking information is often as simple as a records search. If the scammer already knows which bank holds your mortgage, your survey responses have now shared your favorite color, the city you were born in, where you live now, and your mother's maiden name. It wouldn't take much time or effort to take over your online banking account using the "Forgot your password" portal.

Marketplace and Classified Deals: An emerging trend police are seeing is robberies from local classified ads. Remember to meet in a busy, public place if buying or selling items on Facebook. Meeting at your home presents an entire new set of issues. Whenever possible, try to qualify the other party involved in the sale. I personally will not do business with someone who does not use their real name and goes by a "vanity" or profile name. It's also a good idea to try to transact using digital pay accounts such as Venmo, PayPal, and CashApp, rather than carrying large sums of cash. These online digital pay accounts require a connected legitimate bank, a working telephone number, and a verified identity. Even if you were to get robbed, if we have the aforementioned information, these crimes are often easy to resolve.

Too Good to Be True: Another common scam is the "too good to be true" marketplace ads on Facebook, Instagram, Google, and other online search engines. My wife recently attempted to purchase 3 scooters, and it was the deal of a lifetime! Each scooter retails at the big box stores for \$200 each; we were getting three of them for \$349. Little did we know we would never get the scooters. The site was a fake, set up to look like a legitimate store (often set up in a foreign country). The danger of these sites is that they request you set up an account to make the purchase knowing you'll likely use the same username and password you are using for other accounts, like your bank and shopping accounts. How can you tell if the sites are legitimate? These sites use English words that are often jumbled, used out of context, or just completely off-topic. On Facebook specifically, automobile sales scams run rampant. Remember, if the deal seems a little too good to be true, it usually is.

Sextortion: Social media has changed the dating landscape for adults. Users can meet online and arrange a date in minutes. A common scam on social media that we have seen is the use of "sextortion." The users lure their victims into sending photos or videos of themselves in various states of undress while requesting their social media accounts. Once the victim's videos and photos have been sent, the suspect then tells the victim that he or she will post the videos to their online social media accounts if they don't send money. These scams are very hard to track down and often are sourced overseas. Be very careful with whom you allow into your "digital" life.

As technology marches on, the St. Anthony Police Department continues to adapt to the ever-changing landscape bringing you the full service public safety that you have come to expect. We appreciate your partnership to make our communities safe. Be safe, both online and in person. When in doubt, give us a call! We're happy to help!

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Eureka! Recycling App Available for Download

Get up-to-date information about recycling pick-up service by downloading the Eureka Recycling app. It provides *neighborhood-specific* service notifications. Just go to the App Store on your iPhone or visit Google Play on your Android device and search "Eureka Recycling." **The app will alert you to changes in the recycling schedule and reasons your items may not have been collected.**

Residents also can visit Eureka Recycling's website (www.eurekarecycling.org) to view their recycling schedules and set up recycling notifications by phone, text or email. Select "My Schedule" and enter your address, then select "Get a reminder!"

If you have questions, please contact Eureka Recycling at 612-NO-WASTE (612-669-2783).

Free Electronics Recycling for Ramsey County Residents

Used and old electronics are the fastest-growing waste in the country and often contain toxic metals like lead, mercury and cadmium. To keep toxic metals out of the trash, Ramsey County partnered with Repowered (formerly Tech Dump) to offer residents **FREE** electronics (e-waste) recycling. This includes televisions, computers and devices that connect to them, such as VCRs, DVD players, keyboards, and printers. Items collected will be refurbished or recycled into new products.

This ongoing program is available at Repowered's Saint Paul location and is free for **Ramsey County residents only**. Residents from other counties and all businesses are welcome to bring their electronics to Repowered but will be charged a fee.

Learn more about Ramsey County's e-waste program and which items are accepted at www.ramseycounty.us/Electronics.

The electronics collection site is located at:
Repowered
860 Vandalia Street
Saint Paul, MN 55114

All data from electronics dropped off at the e-waste site will be physically destroyed or electronically wiped. Learn more about Repowered at www.getrepowered.org.

Learn more about Ramsey County's e-waste program and which items are accepted at ramseycounty.us/Electronics or call 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.

Forestry Corps Member Starts in Lauderdale

Maggie Duerwachter started with the City on January 17. We share her with the City of St. Anthony through the end of July. Maggie will work out of City Hall two days per week.

Maggie provided us a few tidbits about herself. She just graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in the fall with a degree in biology and a minor in sustainability, as well as a certificate in Geographic Information Systems. Her undergraduate research focused on performance traits in lizards, the results of which she presented at the Society of Integrative and Comparative biology conference. She looks forward to moving in a new direction within the field of biology post-graduation. In her free time she enjoys knitting, figure skating, and rock climbing. If you have questions for Maggie, you can reach her at Maggie.Duerwachter@savmn.com or by calling City Hall.

Winter Reminder from the St. Paul Fire Department



City of Lauderdale

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

**Return Service
Requested**



Shop at City Hall for
Lauderdale branded
apparel:

Short-sleeve t-shirt: \$10
Long-sleeve t-shirt: \$12
Hoodies: \$25
History books: \$25
NEW Mugs: \$7

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