



Lauderdale
POPULATION 2,379

Lauderdale Crier

City of Lauderdale, MN

July-September 2020

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Message from the Mayor

We thought the world seemed so different when I last wrote in April. Again, so much has changed since our last newsletter. Since then we witnessed and took part in the movement to build a more just and equitable world. The death of George Floyd rekindled conversations we started in 2016 upon the death of Philando Castile. Our growth as a city, in cooperation with the St. Anthony Police Department, has been broad and deep due to our partnerships with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). Please join us in the months ahead as we find way to build a Lauderdale that outwardly reflects our commitment to social and racial justice.

In April, the coronavirus was front and center. While it still is, we are learning to adapt as a City. For those of you watching, you have seen the passionate and compassionate conversations the City Council has had around the City's role in protecting public health. Many of these have focused on how to allow usage of our parks and City Hall. We appreciate the constructive feedback. What has not changed is the availability of city staff. Administrative staff kept operations going from home but are back in the office each day to assist you. We have protective measures in place but request visitors to wear masks. The council meetings will continue online for the foreseeable future due to the size of our council chambers.

We continue forward. In this quarter, we completed important goals. The most far reaching is finalizing a contract with the City of St. Paul for the provision of fire services. After the Falcon Heights Fire Department failed to respond to two accident calls, our conversations with Falcon Heights administration centered around the risk they said we had to accept as their station was not staffed and there could be times that firefighters were unavailable to respond to calls. This was not a risk the Council was willing to accept and began conversations with the St. Paul Fire Department as they currently provide our emergency medical services. They are as eager about the expanded partnership as we are. We will be served by Station 23 on Como Avenue near the Fairgrounds but will draw from the other stations as needed. St. Paul's stations are staffed 24/7 by professional firefighters with a wide breadth of training and equipment. The transition date is being worked out but we will send notice out as soon as that is finalized.

I especially miss the community events we have had to cancel. Please reach out to council members and staff if you have ideas about how to keep our community bonds strong. We want to find a way to celebrate Halloween as a community. In the meantime, we wait patiently for the installation of the new playground equipment at Skyview Park. The improvements were made possible by funding from Ramsey County. Thank you to all, especially our children, who participated in the design process. Installation is expected in September but work to prep the area will start soon.

The Council is finding ways to continue community engagement; don't hesitate to reach out to council members by e-mail, phone, or any way you can reach us. We look forward to working with you as we figure out next steps in the weeks and months ahead. We appreciate your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mary Gaasch

JULY — SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, July 3	City Hall Closed for Independence Day	
Tuesday, July 14	City Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 16	Day in the Park/Farmers Market	Cancelled
Tuesday, July 28	City Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11	Primary Election	7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. at City Hall
Tuesday, August 18	City Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 20	Farmers Market	Cancelled
Tuesday, August 25	City Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 8	City Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 22	City Council Meeting	7:30 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 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

2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

Voting Options in 2020

All Lauderdale residents have the option to vote absentee from home, City Hall, or at a Ramsey County voting center. All Lauderdale residents also may vote at City Hall on election day.

If you want to vote absentee *by mail*, please contact us for an absentee ballot application or apply online at www.mnvotes.org.

If you want to vote absentee *at City Hall*, please stop by during office hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Budget about a half hour for this process.

If you want to vote absentee *at a Ramsey County Voting Center*, check out www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting. The locations are:

- The New Brighton Community Center
- Ramsey County Library in Roseville
- Ramsey County Elections Office in St. Paul

Residents are encouraged to register ahead of the election (by July 21) to minimize your time in the polling place. Please contact us for a voter registration form or apply online at www.mnvotes.org.

On August 11, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The City and Ramsey County have been developing procedures to make the process as safe and efficient as possible.

Please let city staff know if you have questions.

2020 Election Calendar

Now until July 21

Pre-registration for Primary Election

Saturday, August 8

Absentee voting at City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 11

Primary Election Day, Vote from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall

Friday, September 18

General Election absentee voting begins

Tuesday, October 13

End of pre-registration for General Election

Saturday, October 31

Absentee voting at City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 3

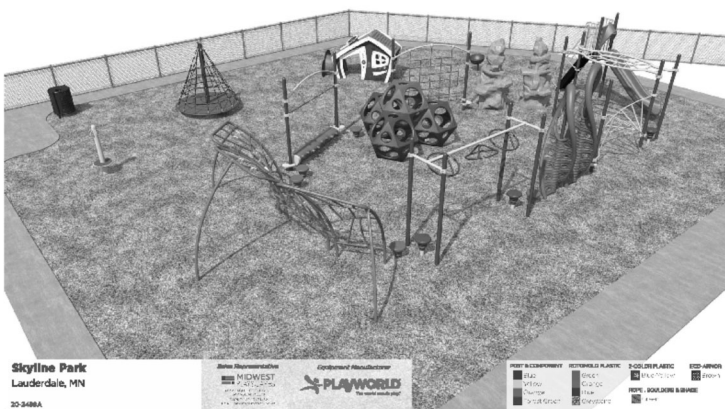
General Election Day, Vote from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall



Filing for City Offices

The offices of mayor and city council will be on the ballot this year. The filing period will be open from July 28 until August 11. If you are interested in running for one of the offices, you may file at City Hall or we can send the application materials to you. The filing fee is \$2.00.

Skyview Improvements Sliding Ahead



Thank you residents for all of the feedback through the design process. We kept all of the design elements you loved and moved them around to fit the space. The City Council approved purchase of the equipment in June and installation is expected in September. About a month prior to installation, Goodmanson Construction will be preparing the surface and installing the concrete border, accessible surfacing, and concrete pads for a porta-potty and picnic table. Notices will go out through the email distribution list ahead of the work. If you are not on the list, send city staff your email address.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

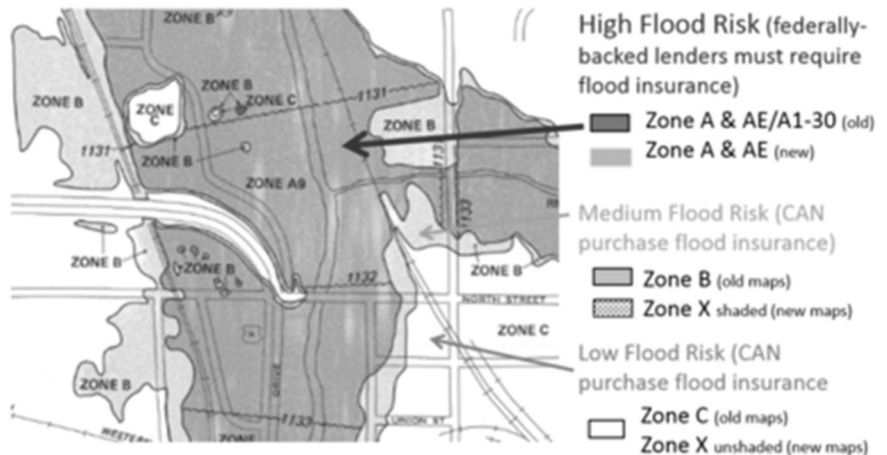
Myth: “My Agent Said I Can’t Get Flood Insurance Since I’m Not in the Floodplain”

By Ceil Strauss, MNDNR, State Floodplain Manager

Unfortunately, we hear this way too often. A home or business owner recognizes they have flood risk, asks their agent for a flood insurance quote, and are told they cannot get a flood insurance policy since they are in the lower risk zone on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

Reality: That is NOT true. You can get flood insurance in any zone!

Those with structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) – an A, AE, A1-30, AO or AH Zone (and V Zones in coastal areas) - who have a federally backed loan will be required by their lender to purchase flood insurance. But anyone can voluntarily purchase flood insurance in the SFHA (the high risk zone), the medium risk zones (shaded Zone X, or Zone B on older maps) and the lower risk zone (unshaded Zone X, or Zone C on older maps).



As long as the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), anyone in that community can purchase flood insurance. **Over 95 percent of Minnesotans live in a community that participates in the NFIP including Lauderdale!** (There are also many communities in Minnesota that do not have mapped flood risk and do not participate in the NFIP. However, ALL communities can and are encouraged to enroll in the NFIP; flooding has occurred all over the state in communities with no mapped high flood risk that got eight, ten, or even twelve or more inches of rain.)



Hello from 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.

At this time, all live group wellness activities have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working toward offering more activities online soon. We are having virtual lunch gatherings to eat, chat, and view some entertainment together. Let us know if you would like to participate by phone or computer. We also provide seniors rides to medical appointments and grocery delivery at no charge. Finally, please contact us if you need assistance with completing your census data. Thirty percent of Minnesotans still need to do this. Let's all get counted so that we will get the funding and representation that we all deserve!

We serve seniors and caregivers who live in Lauderdale, the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul, and Falcon Heights west of Cleveland Avenue. To find out more about our program visit our website at www.sapaseniors.org. Contact us at office@sapaseniors.org or 651-642-9052 to sign up for services or our fun events. We return messages during the week, so don't be shy about leaving one for us!

COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATES

Day in the Park and Farmers Markets Cancelled

It was with great sadness that the City Council cancelled this year's Day in the Park and Farmer's Markets. The purpose of those events was to bring the community together to socialize and build community relationships. With our shared goals of limiting the spread of the coronavirus and keeping everyone healthy, it just didn't make sense to bring everyone to Community Park on the same night but then figure out ways to keep us from interacting with each other. Absence makes the heart grow fonder so next year we all will be ready for a big community celebration and not take it for granted.

Summer Puppet Wagon Shows Available Online

Unfortunately, the Puppet Wagon will not be doing public shows at Community Park this summer. But don't fret, Kids. The puppet shows are available online. The Roseville Puppet Wagon is presenting family-friendly performances of classic fairy tales every week through August 20. Enjoy the puppet shows at www.cityofroseville.com/parks. If guidelines change, the Puppet Wagon will change with them and return to performing at Lauderdale Community Park as usual.



Night to Unite is October 6!?

Minnesota Night to Unite will be held in October this year due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus. This event, which is designed to build relationships among residents to make communities safer, is needed more than ever. Especially if you are new to the area, Night to Unite is a great way to break the ice with those who live around you.

The plan is to keep the format the same, with visits from Police and Fire Departments and other local leaders. Organizers are asked to create an event in keeping with state guidance for preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Residents with questions or who plan to host a block party on October 6 are asked to contact Miles Cline at Lauderdale City Hall (651.792.7655 or miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org) by Monday, September 21. Let us know your contact information, location of party, approximate number of people attending, start time, and if you require barricades (not permitted on Eustis Street and Roselawn Avenue). Parties that register by the September 21 deadline will be provided with an ice cream voucher for a five-quart pail of free ice cream from the Har Mar Cub Foods in Roseville. Ice cream certificates and barricades will be delivered ahead of the event.



Halloween: Starting a New Tradition

Like so many things in 2020, the annual Halloween party will need a new look and new location to keep in step with guidance to limit the spread of coronavirus. So as not to be caught flat-footed, the city council and staff have been talking about what an alternative Halloween could look like.

We would appreciate hearing your ideas about how we can have the same amount of fun but in a modified format. Due to absentee voting taking place during the day on Halloween, City Hall will be unavailable; we need to think more broadly about having fun in the community.

One idea staff had was to create a walking tour of all of the decorated yards that residents put so much effort into making cute or creepy each year. Beyond that, we are running short on ideas. Give us a call or send us an email with your ideas. Even if you don't have ideas, but would like to help create the new tradition, let us know of your availability.



Updates from Police Chief Mangseth



The St. Anthony Police Department (PD) is working closely with the Lauderdale council, staff, and community to provide a safe place to live, work, and play.

As communities across the nation and the world address the coronavirus (COVID-19), our PD has been adjusting practices and procedures to ensure the safety of our staff and members of the public in accordance with recommendations from the MN Department of Health (MDH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and World Health Organization.

Modified policing services during COVID-19

Officers will continue to respond to all calls for service. However, as we take note of ever-changing recommendations from health experts, we may adjust in-person services. Residents may encounter situations where low-priority calls are handled over the telephone or through a self-reporting form. Know these are temporary measures as we work with healthcare partners, local first responders, and emergency management partners, as we serve our communities. I encourage folks to contact the PD with any questions or concerns regarding current police operations.

The following PD services have been temporarily suspended during COVID-19:

- Citizen fingerprinting.
- Citizen use of the PD facility for group events.
- Citizen ride-along events.
- Public tours of the PD facility.
- Group events at the police department (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.)

We remain committed to working cooperatively and innovatively to address the challenges encountered by this viral illness and we ask our residents to engage in community hygiene practices as noted in guidelines set forth by the CDC and MDH. Efforts made by our police officers to monitor compliance related to social distancing, among other orders issued through the Office of the Governor, have focused on education. I remain encouraged by the support received from our residents during this time to continue with Governor Walz' direction and recommendations.

Staying connected and sharing good news

Our staff have put a considerable amount of time and consideration into content for our social media platforms in an effort to stay connected and provide up-to-date information to those in our service area. As a result, our online impact and following has increased.

Recently, Lt. Diegnau responded to a call where he and the St. Anthony Village Fire Department (FD) personnel rescued several baby ducks from a storm drain. Lt. Diegnau became aware that a citizen had taken photos of the activity and asked for copies. Those photos were posted on Facebook. KARE-11 saw the post and highlighted it during their evening newscast. This small yet thoughtful act reflected well on the officers that responded to that call for service.

We value our communities

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Please be assured that this modified level of service will not become the new normal for our agency. We will return to the high-level of personal customer service that we strive to provide as soon as possible.

Comment on the Death of George Floyd

As a police officer and chief of a police department, I can say that the actions of the primary officers in the video are unacceptable and hard to watch. I remain disheartened that this tragic event took place. These types of actions forever tarnish the good work police officers do and have been doing in our community each and every day.

I have cycled through stages of grief, anger, and frustration, but remain focused on leadership through these tragic and difficult times. I emphasize repeatedly to our police officers that everything we do as police officer's must be plausibly articulated and reflected in our department strategic plan – mission – vision.

The killing of George Floyd disturbs me to my core. It bothers me as a leader of a police department, a human, and a person of faith. I am in agreement with Police Chief's across this nation, that if a current police officer watched the video and thinks in any way, shape, or form that it was an acceptable or a reasonable use of force, I want you to turn your badge in to me immediately. I want our communities to know we will continue to ensure that our officers are receiving the highest levels of training to keep our community safe.

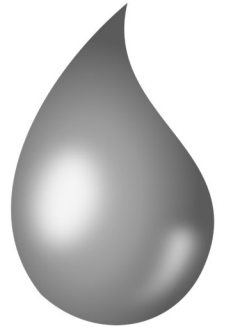
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

What Can I Do to Protect Water Quality?

By: Minnesota Water: Let's Keep it Clean

Fertilizer, leaves, grass clippings, animal waste, and eroded soil are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the street or storm drain, they end up in Walsh Lake and the ponds in the Nature Area before being carried to the Mississippi River. Do your part!

- Buy phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer
- Apply fertilizer in late summer and never before a storm or on frozen ground
- Keep soil, leaves, and lawn clippings out of the street
- Mow higher. Keeping your grass length to 2 1/2 to 3 inches is healthier for your lawn.
- Pick up pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.



Recreational Fire Regulations

Recently, city staff received questions about rules around recreational fires. We also received complaints about the smell of burned garbage. This article highlights key provisions of city code to be mindful of when having a fire and how to be a good neighbor.

Only the following materials can be burned: dried wood from trees, twigs, small branches, charcoal, and cord wood. Things like garbage, stumps, leaves, and newly cut wood may not be burned. They produce smoke and smell that reasonably annoy others.

A fire can be no more than 3' feet in diameter and 2' feet in height. The fire must be contained in an area of noncombustible, non-smoke and non-odor producing materials such as natural rock, cement, brick, tile, or block resting on the ground at least 6" deep or on a raised bed at least 6" high. Commercially purchased fire pits satisfy the contained area requirement of city code.

Fires are allowed between 7:00 a.m. and midnight except when there is a MPCA air quality alert in effect. Fires must be tended to by someone at least 18 years old at all times. There are no exceptions made for fires between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Often neighbors start calling for police assistance when fires and parties continue into the middle of the night. With folks spending more time at home, we need to be respectful of each other. If you need assistance in resolving a recreational fire issue, please call the police. They enforce the ordinance by issuing citations.

Know Who to Call for Water and Sewer Emergencies

The property owner is responsible for maintaining water and sanitary sewer lines from their home up to and including the connection to the main lines.

If you suspect a sewer issue is not in your line, contact Lauderdale City Hall immediately at 651-792-7650 (during normal business hours). For after hours sewer service, call 911. City crews will be dispatched to evaluate the situation. For water emergencies, contact St. Paul Regional Water at 651-266-6868.

Alley Tree & Shrub Trimming

Take a few moments this week to check out your part of the alley. Each year, concerned neighbors let staff know that the paint on their vehicles is being scratched by wayward branches. Overgrown plants obstruct visibility and turn an alley into an obstacle course. If you live on an alley, please trim your shrubs and trees for your safety and the safety of your neighbors. Letters will be sent to residents that don't comply.



City of Lauderdale

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

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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.