

**Lauderdale**  
POPULATION 2,271



# Lauderdale Crier

**City of Lauderdale, MN OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Warm Fall Greetings,

I am excited to report that we are in the early stages of forming an Environment and Sustainability Commission. The Council has heard from many of you who are eager to pitch in to help. I anticipate an ordinance creating the commission will be adopted by the holidays. Notice of how to become a commission member will be in the next newsletter.

The Council adopted the preliminary 2024 levy. Last year we used American Rescue Plan Funds to fill gaps. This year it is public safety funds recently approved by the state legislature. These one-time funds offset part of the 14% police contract increase. The St. Anthony Police Department (SAPD) is planning for the addition of two officers. Most notably, one of the officers will be housed with Ramsey County's Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET). This will give SAPD access to more advanced policing technology in an era where some crimes require CSI type technology to crack.

The Council approved a preliminary levy increase that results in about a \$98 annual increase to owners of a median valued home. The median home value for 2024 is \$300,600 up 9.6% over the prior year. Staff will present the budget during the November 28 city council meeting before the truth-in-taxation public hearing.

You may have noticed that our first new residents started moving into The Fern. You will notice residents slowly moving in over the next few months. We are excited they chose to call Lauderdale home. Real Estate Equities plans to hold an open house in the near future. Notice will go out via the email distribution list.

Ramsey County continues to prepare plans for the reconstruction of Eustis Street south of Larpentour Avenue. They will host their second open house at Lauderdale City Hall on October 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. A presentation of the plans with Q & A will start around 6:00 p.m. I encourage all to attend. See page five for more information.

Finally, I thank our new state legislators Clare Oumou Verbeten and Leigh Finke for visiting us this summer.



There were many new laws passed this session that regulate city activities. It is helpful to share ideas with them on ways to improve our work.

Sincerely yours,  
Mayor Mary Gaasch

*L to R: State Rep. Leigh Finke; Council Members Jeff Dains, Evan Sayre, and Duane Pulford; State Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten; and Mayor Mary Gaasch.*

## OCTOBER — DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 10	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 24	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 25	Ramsey County Open House—Eustis Street	5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31	Halloween Party at City Hall	5:00-6:00 p.m.
Friday, November 10	Veterans Day Observed	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, November 14	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday	City Hall Closed
Friday, November 24	Thanksgiving Holiday	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, November 28	City Council Meeting (TNT Hearing)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 12	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 25	Christmas Holiday	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, December 26	Christmas Holiday	City Hall Closed

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:heather.butkowski@lauderdalemn.org)

Jim Bownik 651.792.7656  
Assistant to the City Administrator  
[jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org)

Miles Cline 651.792.7655  
Deputy City Clerk and Treasurer  
[miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:miles.cline@lauderdalemn.org)

Gordy Beck 651.792.7662  
Public Works Utilities and Maintenance  
[gordy.beck@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:gordy.beck@lauderdalemn.org)

Tom Douvier 651.792.7661  
Public Works Utilities and Maintenance  
[tom.douvier@lauderdalemn.org](mailto: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 PARTNERS

### Hello from St. Anthony Park Area Seniors!

#### Lauderdale City Hall Classes and Services

- Senior exercise class on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm.
- Line dancing sessions on Thursdays Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9 from 7-8:00 pm.
- Independent **foot care** nurses offer appointments. Call to schedule.



#### Events at SAPAS Office Building at 2200 Hillside Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

- Songwriting workshops on October 10 and 17 from 7-8:00 pm.
- "Road to Bali" movie viewing on October 16 at 2:00 pm.
- Hybrid presentation, "Medicare 2024" with Chris Abbott on October 25 at 2:00 pm.
- Board games and fellowship on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10-11:45 am.
- 55+ Defensive Driver Course November 14 from 9 am-1:00 pm.
- Card-making workshops on November 15 from 10-11:45 am.
- Holiday piano concert with Elizabeth Lee on December 8 at 2:00 pm.

#### Other Services and Events



State Legislators,  
Commissioners, and  
Mayors representing  
Falcon Heights,  
Lauderdale, Little  
Canada, Maplewood,  
and Roseville

- Lunch outing on October 11 at 11:00 am at La Casita in Roseville.
- Caregiver support group the first Thursday each month 10-11:00 am.
- Virtual lunch meet-ups with BINGO every other Wednesday.
- Volunteers available for rides to health appointments, home chores, technology, and caregiver reprieve.

Visit our website at  
[www.sapaseniors.org](http://www.sapaseniors.org) or contact  
us at 651-642-9052 or  
[office@sapaseniors.org](mailto:office@sapaseniors.org)



## CONVERSATIONS WITH CONSTITUENTS

Q&A with our local elected officials

Bring your questions and join  
the conversation!

What do YOU want to ask?  
What are YOUR priorities?  
What do YOU want to  
understand?



**October 26, 2023**  
**Roseville City Hall**  
**6:30 - 8:00PM**  
Doors Open at 6PM

Peace Lutheran Church  
1744 Walnut Street in  
Lauderdale.

Pasta Dinner & Bake Sale

Quilt Raffle!

Saturday, October 28  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

All Are Welcome

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### Halloween at City Hall

**Location: 1891 Walnut St**

**When: October 31, 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.**

Visit us in front of City Hall for treats and refreshments. We will be handing out candy to trick-or-treaters so be sure to bring your trick-or-treat bag!

### Halloween Candy Donations

Don't plan to hand out candy at your door to trick-or-treating ghosts and goblins? You may bring your candy and cash donations to City Hall. You will receive a flyer to put on your door recognizing your donation.

**Interested in helping us get ready for Halloween? Stop by City Hall during the day on October 31.**

### Prescribed Burn Planned for Seminary Pond

Capitol Region Watershed District contracted with Landbridge Ecological to perform a controlled burn at Seminary Pond this fall. Seminary Pond is located near the intersection of Carl Street and Idaho Avenue in the southeast corner of the City. This is being done to establish a diverse and full native plant community.

A prescribed burn is the controlled use of fire to burn vegetation. Historically, fires played a significant role in the development and wellbeing of prairies by preventing growth of trees and other plants. Because natural fires no longer occur in urban areas, we use controlled burns to replicate the process.

Prescribed burns require very specific weather conditions, particularly related to wind. Those conditions are difficult to predict more than a couple days in advance. We can't predict the exact date of the prescribed burn, but are hoping to complete the work between **October 1 and November 15**. Signage will be placed around the area on the day of the burn.



During the burn, crews will guide the fire across the burn area in a way that creates the least amount of nuisance to nearby residents. You can expect flames and smoke to come from the project area, with the whole event lasting about three hours. Following the completion of the burn, crews will ensure the fire is extinguished and will not leave the site until it is safe. The project area will turn black for the remainder of the year but will come back green and lush during next year's growing season.

### Assistance for Removal of Diseased Trees and Sewer Repairs

The first Minnesota trees with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were found at the I-94 and TH280 intersection just over ten 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 hazard-

ous 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.

Similarly, the Council approved the use of petition and waiver agreements for sewer repairs. The costs can be steep and unexpected.

Contact city staff to learn more about the process.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### November 7: School Board Elections

Election season is here! The only contest this fall is for Roseville Area Schools' school board. Seven candidates filed for three open seats.

Before election day, Lauderdale residents can vote at the Ramsey County Elections Center located at 90 Plato Blvd West in St. Paul. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Absentee voting at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville begins on October 20.

Visit the Ramsey County Elections website or call 651-266-2171 for more information. On election day, Lauderdale City Hall will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. All Lauderdale residents vote at City Hall.



Upcoming Open House: October 25

### Eustis Street Reconstruction



Eustis Street from Larpenteur Avenue to Lauderdale city limits.

### Open House

Wednesday, October 25

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Lauderdale City Hall

Social Room

1891 Walnut St

Lauderdale, MN 55113



Learn more:

[ramseycounty.us/EustisStreet](https://ramseycounty.us/EustisStreet)



RAMSEY COUNTY  
Public Works

### Coming Soon: Seasonal Hiring for the Skating Rinks

The City soon will be hiring for rink maintenance activities such as scraping and flooding of the hockey and recreational rinks. The rinks are usually flooded in the evening after open skating or in the early morning when temperatures are coldest. We also are looking for employees to staff the warming house each day. Responsibilities include monitoring activity on the rinks and sledding hill and keeping the warming house clean and tidy. It is possible to apply for one or both positions. If you are an early riser and only interested in early morning ice rink maintenance, you may also apply. Applications will be available on the city's website.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

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### Reducing Your Likelihood of Becoming a Victim

Sgt. Mike Huddle

There are a number of places we can fall victim if we're not careful. The last thing we'd ever want to do is give a bad actor the opportunity to victimize us, especially in our own homes. Unfortunately, we're seeing this occur often lately. The good news is, there are common sense things we can do to minimize our risk.

We've seen a trend in residential burglaries where the suspects enter unlocked vehicles parked in driveways or on the streets overnight and the garage door opener has been used to open the victim's garage. The suspects then enter the home while the family is asleep, stealing purses, wallets, laptop computers, tablets and video game consoles. On a few occasions, the residents have come upon the burglars still inside their homes. This is a bold crime and instills a sense of intense violation and vulnerability in the victims family.

While we can't prevent every criminal act 100% of the time, we can certainly reduce our vulnerability and make it more challenging for a criminal to victimize us. None of these solutions are innovative, but they do require some discipline and mindfulness. Fortunately, they're very simple.

1. Always remove valuables, including keys and garage door openers from vehicles parked outside.
2. Keep unattended vehicles locked with the windows closed.
3. Keep dark areas of your property illuminated during nighttime hours or use a motion sensor to temporarily activate outdoor lights.
4. Lock doors to your residence leading to attached garages.
5. Close garage doors overnight.
6. Let your neighbors know if you see their garage door open later in the evening.
7. Call 911 if you notice (see or hear) anything suspicious on or near your property.

You are not bothering the police by doing so. Officers are happy to check things out for you. The best case scenario is it turns out to be nothing and that's easy to deal with. We don't want to miss an opportunity to help someone or prevent a crime if we have a chance.

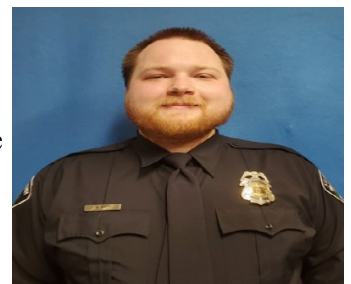
There are certainly other actions we can take to reduce opportunities for crime. If we make these procedures routine, like the "9 PM Routine," every day it can go a long way to keeping our families, neighbors, and properties safe.

#### Meet Elizabeth and Quinton, New St. Anthony Police Officers

Liz was born in Burnsville, Minnesota and raised in the metro area, currently living in Lakeville. She is a graduate from Lakeville High School and attended Normandale Community College and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Before becoming an officer, Liz served for the St. Anthony Police Department as a Police Reserve Officer, Community Service Officer, and temporary non-sworn Field Training Officer. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and French. We are excited to welcome Liz back to our community!



Quinton was born in Cambridge, Minnesota and currently resides in Columbia Heights where he grew up. He graduated from Cyber Village Academy, a charter school in St. Paul. He attended Minnesota State University and received a Bachelor's Degree. Quinton recently was a sworn police officer working for the Three Rivers Park Police Department, with a little over one year of experience. He has expressed that he looks to broaden his policing career by joining a city police department that will offer more opportunity for career and personal growth and development. Welcome to the team Quinton!



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## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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### What Can You Do to Improve Water Quality this Fall?

We know it's autumn by the crunch of leaves under our feet. We also know each autumn that the leaves are releasing pollutants that are entering our water bodies. Tree leaves contain key nutrients used for plant growth. If these leaves flow into our lakes and streams, they break up, and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are released. This is when nutrients become pollutants! These nutrients help algae grow and reproduce. Algae is natural, but it will turn lakes green in large quantities.



What can you do to improve water quality this fall? Rake your leaves! Removing these nutrients from the equation will cut off the algae's fuel for growth. If algae can't grow, our lakes will be clearer. Grass clippings contain nutrients as well. If you are still mowing your lawn, bag up or mulch those clippings.

Leaves and clippings are collected at Ramsey County Yard Waste locations. The service is free to Ramsey County residents, but don't forget to bring your ID.

**The closest site is at 1943 Pierce Butler Route, St. Paul, MN 55114.**

**THEY ALSO WILL TAKE YOUR SCARY HALLOWEEN PUMPKINS.**

#### Ramsey County Yard Waste Collection Hours

##### April - November

Monday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Thursday: Closed  
Friday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Fall Street Sweeping

To keep the City's streets looking neat, for the benefit of our lakes and streams, and to meet the obligations of the City's storm water permit, the streets are swept three times per year. This will happen again in the next few weeks before the snow flies.

Each year we ask residents not to rake leaves into the streets. The sweepers are not equipped to pick up that volume of leaves. Sweepers will drive around your house if they see a cluster of leaves near the curb.

Please consider hiring a private company that provides leaf removal services or bring them to a Ramsey County Yard Waste site if you have an abundance of leaves.

### Invite the St. Paul Fire Department to your Event



Since it is difficult for the St. Paul Fire Department (SPFD) to make it to all Night to Unite events, you can invite them to your personal or community gathering during the rest of the year. If you would like to have the Fire/EMS presence at an occasion, email your requests to: Chanel Rockymore at [chanel.rockymore@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:chanel.rockymore@ci.stpaul.mn.us). They will do their best to get a crew to your event.

### Air Quality Monitor Installed at City Hall

Wildfires once again led to regular air quality alerts this year. Based on the wind patterns, air quality could vary in the region. New technology allows for localized meters to report air quality to help inform your decision making.

A PurpleAir monitor was recently installed at Lauderdale City Hall. The monitor measures particulate matter and shares the data in real time. To see the reading at Lauderdale City Hall and others in the region, go to:

<https://map.purpleair.com>

# City of Lauderdale

1891 Walnut Street  
Lauderdale, MN 55113  
[www.lauderdalemn.org](http://www.lauderdalemn.org)

**Return Service  
Requested**



Shop at City Hall for Lauderdale branded apparel. Sizes were replenished!

Short-sleeve t-shirts: \$13  
Long-sleeve t-shirts: \$16  
Sweatshirts: \$22  
History books: \$25  
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](mailto:Heather.Butkowski@lauderdalemn.org). Also, please contact City Hall with any changes to your name, address, or phone number.