



**Lauderdale**

POPULATION 2,379

# Lauderdale Crier

**City of Lauderdale, MN**

**April-June 2021**

---

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

---

Happy Spring!

You may have noticed the digging in our yard so I thought I would share a trying homeowner situation we had this winter. We experienced what some of you have as well, a sewer line failure. The issue was compounded by a cistern buried under our house, but we will save that story for another time. Our experience brought to life for my family an issue the City Council has been discussing—sewer line insurance.

As homeowners, we own the sewer pipes from our houses to the sewer mains in the streets. We also own the water lines from our homes to the curb stops (usually found right around the front property line). Most homes in Lauderdale have sewer pipes made from clay. Where the clay pipe segments meet, roots can grow and cause blockages. This is usually taken care of by cleaning the sewer pipe with high pressure water and a little root cutting. We had been doing this regularly to keep our system working. This is all most homeowners need to do to keep their systems working.

We learned that when this doesn't fix the problem, repairs get costly and complicated. For our sewer line repair, we looked at pipe replacement (via digging) and trenchless sewer line repairs like lining and pipe bursting. The trenchless options are newer and don't involve digging up yards. Not all plumbers and sewer repair companies offer the new technologies and they don't work in all situations.

Sewer lining is something the City has been investing in to maintain the City's sewer system without the cost and disruption of trenching new lines. This summer the City will contract for lining segments of sewer pipes on Carl, Ione, Pleasant, and Lake Streets. See the article inside for more information.

As it relates to city business, the City can join the National League of Cities (NLC) HomeServe Service Line Warranties program. City participation would allow the NLC's service provider to market their sewer and water line insurance to the community. Before agreeing, the Council asked staff to research similar products in the market so that information could be shared with the community.

We have learned a lot from our research. This is an emerging area of insurance with some homeowners insurance companies offering this as a rider to homeowners' policies. Some cities have joined the NLC's program to provide home owners an option if their homeowners' insurance doesn't. Partners like Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy have annual plans that cover plumbing systems and sewer line blockages but they do not cover repairs or replacement.

Hindsight is 20/20. We would have saved thousands of dollars if we had insurance but you never expect to be the one experiencing such an expense. As it turns out, our home owner's insurance company doesn't offer sewer line coverage but other council members found out their insurers do. I encourage homeowners to call their insurance agents to discuss coverage options. The City Council will decide whether to join the NLC's program in the near future. If we do, we will give you a heads up before their materials hit your mailbox.

In service,  
Mayor Mary Gaasch

**APRIL — JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR** Curbside Recycling EVERY MONDAY!

Tuesday, April 13	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 27	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 11	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, June 8	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 22	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 24	Public Safety Event in the Park	6:00—8:00 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](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 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](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 City Administrator  
[jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:jim.bownik@lauderdalemn.org)

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

Dave Hinrichs 651.792.7661  
Public Works Coordinator  
[david.hinrichs@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:david.hinrichs@lauderdalemn.org)

Gordy Beck 651.792.7662  
Maintenance  
[gordy.beck@lauderdalemn.org](mailto: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

---

---

### Start Collecting Food Scraps for Composting

Did you know? Twenty percent of trash is food waste like fruit and vegetable peels, chicken bones, and expired foods. Put your food waste to use by participating in Ramsey County's free food scraps collection program. Ramsey County collection sites enable people to drop off food scraps that would otherwise be thrown in the trash. The scraps are processed into compost and used in gardening and landscaping projects.



Start a home food scraps collection program by following these three easy steps:

- Pick up a free food scraps collection starter kit at Lauderdale City Hall or a Ramsey County Yard Waste Collection Site. The kit comes with a kitchen caddy, compostable bags, and instructions.
- Line your kitchen caddy with a compostable bag and fill it with food scraps.
- Bring your filled compostable bag to the collection site at 2077 Larpenteur Avenue West in Falcon Heights. The site is open 24/7. Pick up another free bag while you are there.

To learn more, visit Ramsey County's food scraps webpage: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/food-scraps>.

### City Partners with the IRS for Free Tax Software

As a partner, the City is disseminating information regarding MyFreeTaxes, a free tax filing software. MyFreeTaxes is the largest free tax preparation service operated by a nonprofit.

MyFreeTaxes has no income limit or age restrictions and supports unlimited state returns. It is free for all filers with no option for paid add-ons or fees. MyFreeTaxes is available nationwide, includes federal and unlimited state returns, and no income or age restrictions.

May 17 is the new tax deadline for individuals. Check it out at <https://www.myfreetaxes.com/>



### 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 host virtual lunch gatherings where we eat, chat, and play BINGO together. We also offer exercise classes online. The new session of Tai Ji Quan begins on May 4 with sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Call to register for our events. 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](http://www.sapaseniors.org). We can be reached at [office@sapaseniors.org](mailto:office@sapaseniors.org) or 651-642-9052. We return messages during the week, so please leave one for us!

# CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

## New Council Member Takes Oath of Office

In a first for most cities, swearing in ceremonies were held virtually in January.

Mayor Mary Gaasch and Council Member Jeff Dains were re-elected in November. Duane Pulford (pictured below) was newly elected to fill the seat vacated by Council Member Kelly Dolphin.

Welcome Council Member Pulford.

Video: LDCC\_2021-01-12



## 1795 Eustis Street Update

You may have noticed some recent activity at the former Lauderdale School / Chinese Christian Church. We know all of you are as excited as we are to see movement at the former Lauderdale School. The City contracted with Bauer Brothers of Minneapolis to begin the salvaging of all interior items that can be repurposed. Among what is being salvaged is wood flooring, trim, doors, and fixtures. Exterior items will be salvaged prior to demolition.

In January, the City narrowly missed out on the state funding required to move the project forward. Financial resources to build affordable housing are incredibly scarce we anticipate being awarded the necessary bond authority and tax credits in July. Thank you for your patience; staff will send updates and timeline information through the email distribution list between newsletters.

## Lauderdale Selected CRWD Watershed Partner of the Year

The City of Lauderdale was recognized as Watershed Partner of the Year by Capitol Regions Watershed District at their awards program on February 25. The award is in recognition of our cooperation on the Seminary Pond Improvement Project.

The project began almost six years ago with small goals. As those goals expanded, we pooled together with CRWD, Falcon Height, Ramsey County, and the University of Minnesota to solve a big problem. The Seminary Pond improvements prevent an estimated 2.26 tons of sediment and 10.3 pounds of phosphorus from reaching the Mississippi River annually. This was 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 channels, slopes, and ravines leading up to the pond
- adding iron-enhanced sand filters on two edges of the pond to remove dissolved phosphorus
- improving wildlife habitat by controlling invasive plant species and adding native plants.

Most of the work was completed in Fall 2020. Final restoration work will happen yet this spring.



# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Bringing Back Summer Community Events

Community events with different themes are being planned for June, July and August in the hope that restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic will be relaxed or lifted by then (fingers crossed). The events will center around a theme and include food, music, and adult beverages. In June, we host our public safety partners.

**Public Safety in the Park**  
**Thursday, June 24 from 6-8 p.m.**  
**Lauderdale Community Park**  
**1885 Fulham Street**

**Featuring music, food and adult beverages**



*Stay tuned for details on the July and August events.  
Events will be cancelled if restrictions don't allow for large gatherings.*

## Refuse and Recycling Cart Reminders

City Code specifies how garbage and recycling carts are to be managed:

- Carts shall not be put out for collection prior to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday night for Monday collection.
- **Carts shall not be placed on the traveled portion of the roadway.** Carts should be placed behind the curb or at the end of your driveway (for those who receive service in the front of their homes).
- Carts are to be removed from the street on the day of collection and screened from view.

Please follow these simple steps for your benefit and the benefit of your neighbors.



## Sewer Lining Coming to a Street Near You

Five years ago the City began repairing and replacing sewer lines through a trenchless method called cured-in-place pipe (CIPP). In short, a liner is inserted into the sewer pipe, then the pipe is filled with steam or hot water to cure or attach the new liner to the old pipe. The new pipe is incredibly durable and seamless which prevents waste materials from catching on joints which leads to blockages.

2021 will be the final CIPP project year as all of the city sewer lines will be PVC or lined. The project is out to bid. The streets impacted include portions of Carl, Idaho, Ione, Lake and Pleasant. You will receive notice of any water use restrictions by the contractor before work begins in front of your home. The impact will be minimal as the work moves quickly. Additionally, the contractor will clean and televise additional sewer segments on the east side of the City. Call with questions or stay tuned for more information that will be posted to the City's website and emailed to those who have subscribed for updates.

## New and Improved City Website

It was a long-term goal of city staff to move to a new website platform with more functionality. It was a daunting task but the website is up and running. We will continue to add content in the upcoming weeks. The best feature of the new website is that all subscribers to the site receive an email when staff post news and announcements to the website. Those who were receiving city emails were moved to the new site. Going forward, users have control over subscriber settings. If you can't find what you are looking for, let us know so we can make the information available to everyone.

## UPDATES FROM PUBLIC SAFETY



### What is a Crime of Opportunity?

By Officer Tressa Sunde

A crime of opportunity is a crime committed without forethought or planning; the perpetrator recognizes their chance to commit the act in the moment and seizes it. Such acts have little or no premeditation. While this is not a complete list of crimes of opportunity; it encompasses the majority of the crimes seen in the city of Lauderdale.

- Theft from Auto
- Motor Vehicle Tampering
- Theft of Auto
- Bicycle Theft
- Garage Burglary
- Home Burglary

These crimes primarily occur when vehicles are left parked outside, on the street, unlocked, or parked in a garage with the garage door unlocked. Keys left in the vehicles; valuables left in vehicles; leaving doors and windows unlocked, including those between houses and attached garages make easy target areas for criminals to take advantage. Leaving bicycles visible in the yard, or in a garage with the overhead door open, or service door unlocked can 'invite' the unwanted criminal onto your property.

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

- If you do not have to park on the street, don't! Park in the driveway or garage.
- Do not leave keys in the vehicle. This includes house keys.
- Do not leave valuables in the vehicle. If you must, put them in the trunk or out of sight.
- LOCK YOUR VEHICLE!
- 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.

Again, this is not a complete list of crimes or preventative measures. But with summer right around the corner, it's a good start!

### Help First Responders Help You

While working in your yard this spring, take a minute to verify that your house numbers are visible from the street and alley. It is easy to forget to reinstall them after painting and siding projects or find them hidden behind bushes. Periodically, we send out mailed notices when they go missing. This is meant to be a courtesy that benefits you and your neighbors.

Whether you choose plain or ornate numbers, there are a few basic requirements. The numbers must be in Arabic, at least four (4) inches tall, and clearly visible at all times from the street and alley.

### SPFD Project Safe Haven

Make your home a Safe Haven! St. Paul Fire Department (SPFD) has a handy checklist to help you determine if your home is as safe as it can be. If you find deficiencies, Lauderdale residents can register on-line to pick up smoke detectors, CO monitors, and stove top extinguishers free of charge at the SAPD headquarters on Saturday mornings between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Call 651-228-6273 with questions.

Link to the Safe Haven Checklist:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Fire%20%26%20Safety/Project%20Safe%20Haven%20Booklet.PDF>



## Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

Rain washes anything that's on streets and paved surfaces down storm drains and into lakes and rivers.  
Help keep our water clean!

[adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org)



### Discounted Backyard Compost Bins Available

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling compost bins for \$66. Ramsey County residents receive a \$20 discount.

Order and schedule your pick up date online at [RecycleMinnesota.org](http://RecycleMinnesota.org). Enter promo code "Ramsey" to receive the discounted price or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident.

Learn more about backyard composting at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/backyard-composting>. The Recycling Association of Minnesota also sells rain barrels for \$79.



**Dog poop** carries harmful bacteria. Pick up after your pet.



**Leaves, grass and dirt** feed algae and turn lakes and rivers green. Keep them off streets and sidewalks.



**Trash** Keep it out of lakes and rivers. Put it in a garbage bin.



**Salt** One teaspoon of sidewalk salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water. Use it sparingly. For colder temperatures, use sand or kitty litter.

# City of Lauderdale

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

**Return Service  
Requested**

Pre-Sorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage Paid  
Twin Cities MN  
Permit No. 1073



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 [Heather.Butkowski@lauderdalemn.org](mailto:Heather.Butkowski@lauderdalemn.org). Also, please contact City Hall with any changes to your name, address, or phone number.