

Rockville News

2015 COUNCIL

Mayor
Jeff Hagen 320-266-0377

Councilors:
Susan Palmer 320-267-2966
Don Simon 320-250-9674
Rick Tallman 320-266-4856
Duane Willenbring 320-293-8732

MAY

7th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
12th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
20th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.
25th Sewer & Water Bills	Due
25th City Hall Closed	

JUNE

4th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
9th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
17th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.

JULY

2nd Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
3rd City Hall Closed	
14th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
15th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.
25th Sewer & Water Bills	Due

Conservation Water Rates

On 4/15/15 the council approved a conservation water rate. State law states that cities serving 1000+ consumers must have demand reduction measures in use by January 1, 2015 or before requesting well construction approval from the Dept. of Health or before requesting an increase in permitted volume for a water appropriation permit from the DNR.

The council has chosen the conservation rate with tiers system. The idea is conserve water so we use less. Currently the rate per thousand gallons is \$3.55. With the new rate people can pay less per thousand gallons if they conserve.

The base fee of \$19.08 will increase to \$26.00 bi-monthly. This is used to cover the fixed amounts of operations, maintenance & replacement.

The tiers are this:

0 – 4,000	\$3.00 per thousand gallons
4,001 – 8,000	\$3.50 per thousand gallons
8,001 – 14,000	\$4.25 per thousand gallons
14,001 +	\$4.75 per thousand gallons

Just some facts:

How much is in reserves? At the end of 2014 there is approximately **\$33,000**. The goal of the council is to be at \$60,000 in 4 years. It is recommended that you have 50% of operating costs in reserves.

Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$7,636.56 last year which is good as there are some very expensive repairs that need to be done.

The goal of the council was to generate \$145,000 in revenue for 2015 – the ordinance that was passed potentially could generate \$134,630.19 if the usage stayed exactly the same.

The council in their deliberation agreed that there would more than likely be a 5% reduction in revenue due to conservation.

The council has some big decisions to deal with in the coming months, but rest assured they will deliberate each expense to be in the best interest of the citizens. **See Back Page for ways to conserve water.**

Garbage Hauling – We still have 4 haulers in the city. At a recent council meeting discussion was held regarding what can be done. It was suggested that neighbors band together and get the same hauler so this would eliminate some of the traffic and heavy equipment beating up the roads. If people would like to pursue this idea and need some information on what it might save in wear and tear on the roads we have that available at city hall.



Our Honey Bees are on the decline! You Can Make a Difference...



Plant a garden and stop using pesticides for starters...

About 80% of food plants we buy at the grocery store require pollination, usually from pollinating insects such as bees. Unfortunately these insect are declining in numbers. We need to help them if we can. Here's some actions we can all consider taking:

- 1) Don't use pesticides in your garden and on your lawns. Especially important to avoid pesticide use when the plants are flowering.
- 2) Allow dandelions to grow and blossom. They were introduced from Europe as was the honey bee, and are a good source of spring food (pollen) for the pollinators.
- 3) Increase diversity in your yard, especially with pollinator-friendly plants.
- 4) Buy plants from nurseries that are free from systemic pesticides like neonicotinoids. Such pesticides are incorporated within ALL parts of the plant: roots, leaves, pollen, nectar. Some common names for neonicotinoids are: imidacloprin, acetamiprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin, thiomethoxam, sulfoxator. (don't worry, I can't pronounce these either, I am just taking this list with me to the nursery and making sure the items I purchase don't have these in them). They can persist in the soil for up to 12 years.
- 5) Pollinators pick up the chemical when foraging, get disoriented, cant find their way "home", weaken and often die. It is not unlike radiation sickness in that it causes nerve poisoning and damage, as well as immune system damage.
- 6) Be sure to ask. If the nursery does not sell pesticide free plants, find a nursery that does.
- 7) Have fun (life is too short not to have fun) and plant a huge flower and vegetable/fruit garden, and provide a fresh water source for our busy little friends.



Common Pollinator Friendly Plants:

Annuals - Black eyed Susan, Calliopsis, Marigolds, Poppies, Sunflowers, Zinnia

Perennials - Agastache, Asters, Butterfly Weed, Clematis, Clover, Compass plant, Crocuses, Germander, Joe Pye Weed, Hollyhocks, Monarda (Bee Balm).

Veggies & Fruit - Cantaloupe, Cucumbers, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squash, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Watermelon.

Herbs - Basil, Borage, Catnip, Cilantro, Fennel, Lavender, Mints, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Vervains, Wild Bergamot, Wild Geranium.

Trees & Shrubs - Apple, Crabapple, Chokecherry, Elderberry, Pears, Plumbs, Sandcherry, Service Berry. *For more information on bees visit the MN Pollution Control Agency's website.*

 "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

Albert Einstein



Lets get the scoop on Poop!

Fido has no fingers, so he can't pick up

his own waste. If his owner isn't willing and able to take care of Fido's waste, he probably shouldn't own a dog.

Dog waste carries a great many harmful bacteria and worms that can make people and other dogs sick. If it is left where it is deposited, it could contaminate other dogs or people.

If the dog waste gets washed away by rain or snowmelt, it will eventually end up in a lake or river where it can contribute to the bacteria in the water and make people sick. The dog waste also carries nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen which feed the algae in the water and make it unpleasant to swim.

So, do the right thing and pick up your dog waste. Either flush it down a toilet or place it in the garbage. We all know that our dogs would do it themselves, if they could.

(Information above provided by CMWEA)

****Remember****
ATV's and other motor vehicles do not belong on the sidewalks or on the Rocori Trail. Thank you for your cooperation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP CLEAR WATER FROM ENTERING OUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM.
Clear water inflow nearly caused a disaster previously because the flow was so high that we could not pump it fast enough. This extra flow is expensive to treat. These are the reasons that Rockville and other cities have an ordinance against clear water inflow. The "clear water" can be ground water or surface water.

THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE ADHERED TO:

SUMP PUMPS FROM HOMES, APARTMENTS, AND BUSINESSES used for dewatering basements **must be pumped outside!**

IF YOU HAVE HAD WATER PROBLEMS AND DO NOT HAVE A SUMP PUMP, you need to have one installed or seal up the sewer floor drain in your basement.

BASEMENT AND GARAGE FLOOR DRAINS MUST BE COVERED, AND WATER PUMPED OUTSIDE!

SEWER CLEAN-OUT PIPES MUST HAVE A WATER TIGHT SEAL TO PREVENT INFLOW OF GROUND-WATER.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT ROCKVILLE CITY HALL AT 251-5836, FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO SOLVE YOUR DEWATERING PROBLEM.



WET WIPES: To Flush or Not To Flush...that is the question.

Please do Not flush the moist towelettes, wipes, diaper wipes, hand sanitizer wipes or "flushable wipes" down the toilet! Don't be fooled, even if they say they are "flushable"...they cause serious damage to our sewer systems, resulting in blockages and extra costs to repair.

What do I do with the grease from cooking?

We have run into issues with excessive grease in our sewer system. If you have grease from cooking, **please do NOT pour grease down the drain or flush it down the toilet!!!** When it cools, put it into a container and throw it away in the garbage.



The City of Rockville thanks you, your pocket book thanks you, and your sewer thanks you.



TORNADO INFORMATION:

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.

Look for the following danger signs:

- * Dark, often greenish sky
 - * Large hail
 - * A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - * Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
 - * If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.
- * **GET TO LOWEST FLOOR IN YOUR HOUSE**
 - * **IF NO BASEMENT, GET TO AN INTERIOR ROOM**
 - * **EVACUATE MOBILE HOMES IMMEDIATELY**
 - * **IF OUTSIDE, GET TO SAFE SHELTER**
 - * **AS LAST RESORT, GO TO A DITCH**
 - * **STAY TUNED TO WEATHER RADIO**

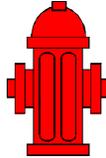
PUBLIC NOTICE

FLUSHING OF WATER MAINS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA & PLEASANT LAKE AREA:

Tuesday, April 28th, 2015

This process may cause some temporary discoloration of your water. To remove this discoloration, please turn on several faucets in or outside of your home or business, and leave the water run until it clears. We will not be flushing on **Monday's**, so consider Monday a good laundry day during this time frame.

The city will try to have the flushing completed by Friday, May 8th, 2015 (weather permitting).



*If you have any questions please call:
Rockville City Hall: 251-5836*

PESKY POTHOLES:

After the winter months, it is common to have streets that have broken areas and potholes. The maintenance department is aware of the issues and will be repairing them soon. This occurs on our tar roads and even on some of our gravel roads. We have put temporary measures in place to assure residents safe travel. Once the roads dry out, we will begin more permanent measures such as air patching the potholes on the tar roads and hauling gravel onto the gravel roads. For your safety, please slow down when approaching one of these areas. Repairs will be done when conditions are optimal for a proper repair. If you have any questions or concerns please call the Public Works Dept. at 320-250-2601. Thank you for your patience.

BURNING PERMITS - as of 4/3/15 there is a burning ban on check MN DNR website for more information

If there is no ban, pick up your Burning Permits at City Hall (free) or get them online at the MN DNR Website at www.dnr.state.mn.us (\$5.00 for the year).

Permits are for piled, vegetative materials only (grass, leaves, sticks and crop residue) Burning times 5PM—8AM (unless DNR Forestry changes). Check with City Hall when picking up your permit.



Requests to burn other materials, or all daytime or running fire permits for more than 1 acre have to be issued by a forester. Homeowners should call the Area Forestry Office at 320-616-2450 ext 626.

Permits may be restricted on a day to day basis. Daily burning regulations are posted on the DNR website http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html

“An optimist is the human personification of Spring.” Susan J. Bissonette

2015 Home Fire Campaign... sign up today!



On May 30th, 2015, a team of Rockville Fire Department and volunteers, will go to houses of those who have signed up. They will be checking existing fire/smoke detectors, replacing batteries as needed, replacing detector older than 5 years old if requested and installing new detectors in homes without working detectors. If you are interested in signing up for this free service, please stop into Rockville City Hall or contact Rockville City Hall at 320-251-5836 if you have questions. Again there is no charge for this campaign or service.

The goal of the campaign is to mobilize resources to save lives and reduce injuries from home fires. Smoke detectors for this national campaign have been donated by a national business partner. The American Red Cross is a non-profit, non-government organization and relies solely on donations from donors. To help support the American Red Cross please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to www.redcross.org

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I know you all have been waiting
for the Pleasant Lake
Garage Sale
April 23rd—25th
An event not to be missed!



ROCKFEST SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rockville Rock-Fest Committee will once again award two \$250 scholarships to senior high school residents of Rockville; one to a male and one to a female student. After March 16th applications will be available at City Hall. Applications must be returned to City Hall by the end of the business day, April 24th. Recipients of the scholarships will be announced by May 8th. At present the only fundraiser for the scholarship fund is the collection of aluminum cans at the Granite Edge Café. Everyone is encouraged to bring their aluminum cans to support the cause.

Safe Deposit. Drop off unused meds, keep our water drug free.

Proper disposal of un-used and expired medications protects the environment and saves lives. Recommendations for disposal methods have evolved as knowledge has increased.

Do your part to protect our water resources and environment for future generations. Proper disposal will also help prevent possible misuse, poisoning and criminal activity. Take advantage of drop box locations and local drug take back events.

To anonymously dispose of un-used and expired medications, the following pharmaceutical drop boxes are available. No sharps allowed.

Local Drop Box Locations:



Sartell Police Department

310 2nd Street S
Sartell, MN 56377
M-F, 8:00am-6:00pm

Paynesville Police Department

221 Washburne Avenue
Paynesville, MN 56362
M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm

Sauk Rapids Government Center – West Hallway

250 Summit Ave N
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm

Stearns County Law Enforcement Center

807 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303
M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm

Waite Park Police Department

19 13th Ave N
Waite Park, MN 56387
M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm

Melrose Police Department

225 1st Street NE
Melrose, MN 56352
M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm

ROCK-FEST FESTIVAL 2015 SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

6:00 PM PARADE

8:00 PM STONEY'S STREET PARTY
(featuring Wild Woods)

10:00 PM FIREWORKS!

For parade applications or sponsorship opportunities or if you have questions, contact

**Amanda at 320-980-0329
or amandafilla4@hotmail.com**

Visit The Book Nook At Rockville City Hall

TRI-COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC may be able to assist you with your heating and electric bills!

In this economy more and more people and families are having difficulties making ends meet. If you are having difficulty paying your heating and/or electric bill we encourage you to contact your local Energy Assistance provider.

How can Energy Assistance help you?

Energy Assistance programs can provide:

- Assistance towards a household's home energy bill.
- Emergency assistance if a household's home energy service is shut off.
- Emergency assistance if a household is unable to get fuel delivered.
- Advocating with energy-related services such as weatherization improvements, furnace equipment repair and replacement, and budget counseling.

LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDER FOR: BENTON, MORRISON, SHERBURNE, STEARNS COUNTIES:
TRI-COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC
1210 23RD AVE S
WAITE PARK MN 56387
(320) 251-1612 or 1-888-765-5597
WWW.TRICAP.ORG

This program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce

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Rockville Summer Ball Program is still looking for players!!!



T Ball ages 4-7 (Tuesdays)

Pitch Ball ages 6-7 (Tuesdays)

Minor League Softball ages 8-10 (Mon & Wed)

Major League Softball ages 11-13 (Mon & Wed)

Minor League Baseball ages 8-10 (Tues & Thurs)

Major League Baseball ages 11-13 (Mon & Wed)

Stop by City Hall to sign up or go to www.rockvillecity.org and print out an application form and drop off at Rockville City Hall.



Top 10 Simple Tips to reduce the amount of water you use:

1. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants. 
2. When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw it out, use it to water your trees or shrubs. 
3. Turn off the water while you shave and save up to **300 gallons** a month.
4. Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to **150 gallons** a month.
5. Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to **100 gallons** every time. 
6. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
7. Turn off the water while brushing teeth and save **25 gallons** a month. 
8. Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to **750 gallons** a month.
9. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to **1,000 gallons** a month.
10. Shorten showers by two minutes and save up to **150 gallons** per month.

Please Email Me My Newsletter: If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please email your email address to mlais@rockvillecity.org