

Rockville News

2014 COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Hagen 320-266-0377

Councilors:

Susan Palmer 320-267-2966

Don Simon 320-250-9674

Randy Volkmuth 320-260-6095

Duane Willenbring 320-293-8732

APRIL

3rd Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
8th Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
16th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.

MAY

1st Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
13th Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
21st Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.
25th Sewer & Water Bills	Due
26th City Hall Closed	

JUNE

5th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
10th Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
18th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.

From your Mayor: Regarding core city water/sewer rates and new personnel

Recent council meetings have been heavily attended by some core city residents and some facts need to be presented.

First, the water/sewer rate issues were first raised some time in 2011 when a minority of multi-unit property owners felt they should only pay one base water rate for their property though there were several/many units on the property. The policy to charge a base rate for each unit has been a city policy long before even consolidation. Let me use an example to explain the unfairness of what this minority wants:

I purchase 6 homes along the Sauk River, tear them down, and build 24 units of 2,500sf/unit apartment/condos units for rent or sale. These units are 3 bedroom, 3-bath units, all total self-sufficient with their own furnaces, A/C, etc. These units rent for \$2,500/month plus expenses or sell for \$250,000 per unit. If the minority's policy were in place, I would pay only ONE base water charge for ALL 24 units. The City has not only lost 6 base water revenue from the 6 homes that were removed, which now must be paid by the remaining residents on the water system, but what reasonable person wouldn't feel it inherently unfair for these 24 residents to split 1 base water rate and expect the other residents to cover the other 23 that should be charged the same base fee?

Our policy is not only fair and reasonable, it is also a policy followed by a majority of other cities. Having "lost" that argument with the council, this minority then moved on to claiming the usage portion of the water fee was unfair.

To the best of my knowledge, even prior to consolidation, it was the city's policy to charge its residents for all of the expenses of providing water in what I call the core city. No resident from the township paid for anything for that system, and rightfully so. After consolidation, the policy continued as I am guessing no one thought about it or felt it should be changed. This same minority began arguing that all residents in the city should contribute to that water fund because the city hall, fire hall, maintenance building, core city park, etc. was using water that benefited everyone in the city. Acknowledging some justification in that claim, the council formed a special committee using an outside objective consultant in 2012 to derive a reasonable estimate of what all residents should contribute to that water fund for that water. Some of that water is metered separately to the source; other was estimated and agreed to by the committee.

Cont.

The total of those annual payments made by residents outside the core is approximately \$15,000-\$16,000. In addition to these payments, there is also another additional \$6,000/year going from cell tower rent, resulting in a total of \$21,000 to \$22,000/year in payments made by residents outside the core. Those payments were properly made in 2013, the first year this new policy was put in place. Despite what the majority of the council feels is more than adequate, this minority continues to demand more and more time and information be provided by city staff in search of a reason for more money to be paid into this fund from outside the core. This minority also continues to demand a new committee be established in hope that it will result in a more favorable result for them. The constant demands for more and more information comes at a cost to the city in terms of not only money, but time not spent on work needed servicing other areas of the city. This same minority wants policy changed regarding how sewer fees are collected to their benefit as well.

The council has not agreed to form another committee as it feels the result of the last process is more than fair and reasonable. I want to remind all citizens that it wasn't that long ago that our south 6 sections sued and were successful in separating from the city due to their fear how issues like this could impact them in the future. I want all residents to know, and I reminded the council of this at our last council meeting, that the council has the fiduciary duty, in my opinion both legal and moral, to act in the best interest of the others. Any issue that comes before this council for resolution, has to take into consideration the interests of not only those that are attending that meeting, it must include ALL residents of the city. For every person at a meeting arguing for you to give them what they want, there are roughly another 100 or more residents that are counting on the council to do what is right for all residents. Every citizen gets the same fair and reasonable treatment from this council; doesn't matter what part of the city you live in, what your name is or how big a house you live in. That said, just because you don't get what you want, doesn't mean you haven't been treated fairly.

I also want to respond to an inaccurate claim being spread around the core that the city did not follow proper procedures in its hiring of a new maintenance supervisor. That is totally inaccurate. Having faced the threat that our 2 most-senior maintenance personnel were going to quit if certain demands weren't met, we felt it was necessary to take immediate action to minimize the impact to the residents if that did occur, recognizing it would likely occur at a time that would cause the most problems for the city. With legal counsel help along the way, we were fortunate to be able to have an exceptional person willing to take on the position when and if the council felt it needed to take action to protect its residents. The result is that the city now has not only an exceptional worker but also someone who is very diligent in managing the spending side of his responsibilities.

I want all to welcome Roger Schotl and Sam Simon to our maintenance staff and to let you know that I am very confident these 2 people will be giving us 110% effort at all times. Roger comes to us with years of management experience in city and county maintenance and Sam comes with youth, energy, and desire to learn that will certainly keep Roger from even thinking about slowing down.
Thank you for your time.

Jeff Hagen

PUBLIC WORKS

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 320-251-5836. Thank you for your patience.

Quality is not an act. It is a habit. *Aristotle*



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)

Garbage and Recycle Bins :

Thank you to those of you who are placing your garbage and recycle bins in the driveway and not in the street. The plow trucks cannot do their job if these bins are in the street.

****Remember****

ATV's and other motor vehicles do not belong on the sidewalks or on the Rocori Trail.

Thank you for your cooperation.

DITCH RECLAIMING

Once again Public Works will soon be running a disc reclaimer along gravel road shoulders to get rid of the ridge build up as well as pull back our gravel onto the road surface. This may create clumps in the road which is sod that gets pulled up with the gravel. Ditch reclaiming is a necessary maintenance procedure because it not only improves drainage off the road surface but it allows us to reclaim hundreds of yards of good gravel that was pushed off the road surface.

We are asking residents who drive on these roads to please be patient with this reclaiming effort. Thank-you!

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.



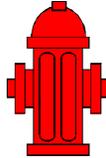
The City of Rockville thanks you, your pocket book thanks you, and your sewer thanks you.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FLUSHING OF WATER MAINS IN THE DOWNTOWN
AREA & PLEASANT LAKE AREA:
Tuesday, April 29th, 2014

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 9th, 2014
(weather permitting).

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



ROCKVILLE
FIRE RELIEF
ASSOCIATION
FISH FRY
April 4, 2014

Serving from 4-8 pm
Rockville Parish Center
Raffle Tickets are available
check with your Fire Fighters,
City Hall or local businesses.



TORNADO DRILL DAY
THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH
1:45 PM AND 6:55 PM

BEFORE A TORNADO:

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

BURNING PERMITS

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



“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;
an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. *Sir Winston Churchill*”

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pet's stay a fun and stress-free experience. Located two
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email: info@thebarkingbirch.com
23445 county road 8, cold spring, mn 56320
phone: 320.229.BARK(2275)



Paid Ad

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Licensed & Bonded #20634020
Residential & Light Commercial

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- Siding
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- Decks
- Window & Door Replacements

BOB: 320-255-1662
CHUCK: 320-398-7512



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Rockville Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 19, 2014
at 10:00 a.m.**

Lions Park

(Across from the 400 Supper Club)

Ages 0-10

Goody bags

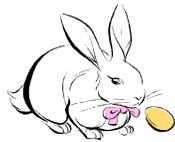
Grand Prizes for each age group

Meet the Easter Bunny

(bring your camera)

Rain or shine.

**Please bring food shelf items
to donate.**



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

ROCKFEST SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rockville RockFest Committee has absorbed the funds of the former Business Association and will be awarding scholarships in May. One - \$250 scholarship will be awarded to a male and one - \$250 scholarship will be awarded to a female, high school senior student who resides within the city limits of Rockville. After March 22nd applications can be picked up at City Hall. Applications need to be returned to City Hall by the end of the business day, April 17th. The recipients will be announced by May 9th. 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.

**ROCKFEST PARADE
JUNE 28TH, 6:00 P.M.**

Information Update on the Garbage Hauler Task Force:

The City of Rockville's Garbage Hauler Task force is recommending to Council that the City of Rockville get bids for garbage and recycling services for residents and businesses for a 3 year contract. The Task Force feels there would be great benefit, not only in the rate that is paid, but in reducing the wear and tear on city roads and alleys. Other cities that have adopted this type of ordinance have shown that there is a cost saving in rates and also in maintenance cost of their roadways. These cities such as St. Augusta, Sauk Rapids, and Waite Park feel that it was good decision to make. Some have been doing this for years and others have just started. The Task Force feels the City should research all options available to them and the residents. Thank you.

Visit The Book Nook At Rockville City Hall

TRI-COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC

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 and U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

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Sign up for the Summer Ball Program!!!

Youth sign-up is on
Saturday, March 29th, 2014
from 10 am-11 am
at Rockville City Hall

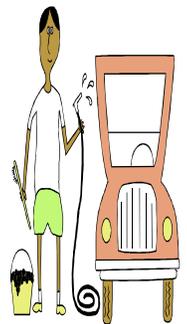
T Ball ages 4-7 (Tuesdays)
Pitch Ball ages 6-7 (Tuesdays)
Minor League Softball ages 8-10 (Mon & Wed)
Major League Softball ages 11-13 (Mon & Wed)
Minor League Baseball ages 8-10 (Tues & Thurs)
Major League Baseball ages 11-13 (Mon & Wed)

Stop by City Hall to sign up!



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.



(CMWEA <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to- conserve/index.php>)

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

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." *Helen Keller*