2020 FALL | WINTER NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT
CHECK OUT PAGES 13-18 FOR THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT NEWS IN ROGERS, MINNESOTA!

WHAT WILL THE ELECTIONS LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR? SEE PG. 2
General Election Day: November 3, 2020

The General Election is coming up on November 3, 2020! You can vote at your assigned precinct from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day. Please remember social distancing guidelines at all times and that a mask is required to enter any City buildings. The City will ensure that our polling place layouts meet social distancing guidelines. We will have PPE supplies including alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and sanitizing spray readily available. For any additional election information visit www.rogersmn.gov/elections.

What is Different about the Polling Place with COVID-19?

- Masks are required in City buildings at all times.
- The Greeter Table, Check-In Table, and Ballot Table are spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Acrylic shields will be placed on election judge tables to serve as a barrier between the election judge and voters.
- Voting booths are spaced at least 6 feet apart and are cleaned after use.
- Voters will use one pen to sign the voter oath and to fill out the ballot. Pens will be dropped off after casting ballots for sanitizing.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at each precinct with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Where Do I Vote on Election Day?
The City of Rogers has two precincts. Precinct 1 is located at the Rogers Activity Center (21080 141st Ave. N. Rogers, MN 55374), and Precinct 2 is located at the Rogers Community Room (21201 Memorial Dr. Rogers, MN 55374). The easiest way to figure out where you vote is to determine your location in relation to I-94. If you are north of I-94, you will vote at Precinct 1, if you are south of I-94 you will vote at Precinct 2.

Visit Our City Website to Stay Up To Date on the Latest Info!
www.rogersmn.gov
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to local and nationwide develop-
erations and with regard to public
nesses who are doing their part to
We thank our residents and busi-
curred in long term care facilities.
Rogers, most of which have oc-
the 14-day trend for recorded cases
who have tested positive and have
have been entire Rogers families
health impacts or the deaths of
ers still have dealt with personal
have dealt with personal
have been forced to worry about
and entertain ourselves. Others

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The Mayor and City Council have
actively worked to implement poli-
cies intended to help Rogers busi-
nesses survive in this climate. First,
in working to help restaurants safely
reopen, the Council adopted a policy
allow for regulatory flexibility to
encourage outdoor seating and
provided concrete traffic barriers
for safety purposes where neces-
sary/requested. Second, the Council
earmarked over $200,000 from the
City’s federal Coronavirus Relief
fund dollars to be used as grants
for small businesses that faced
temporary closure under the state’s
executive orders. To date, more than $100,000 has been provided to
Rogers businesses.

The Rogers Muni on-sale liquor
allow for social distancing.

What’s Open/

City budget discussions for 2021
have centered around the financial
impacts to residents and business-
es, and the continued uncertainties
that surround the pandemic. The
Council’s goal has been to adopt a
City tax rate that would produce a
flat or slightly decreased City tax
bill for the average homeowner in
Rogers (dependent upon individual
property valuation changes), and the
proposed preliminary tax state-
ments mailed by the County this
November should reflect that goal.

What’s Not

Rogers businesses are open and
working under the respective state
restrictions regarding face cover-
ings, capacity and social distanc-
ing. City Offices remain open at this
time. As a critical infrastructure/essential industry, City operations
have continued throughout the
pandemic. City Hall, Public Works of-
ices and the Police Station are open
to the public at this time, although
it is recommended that residents
access services remotely (telephone
at (763)-428-2253 or website at www.
roversmn.gov, as appropriate) when-
ever possible to reduce unnecessary
contacts. The Fire Department can
be reached at (763)428-3500.

All City parks and trails remain open
for use, and caution should be used
regarding contact with shared ame-
nities and playground equipment (at
discretion of parents). As sanitizing
can’t be assumed, users should wash
hands/use hand sanitizer before and
after such use.

The Rogers Activity Center is open to
organized groups for on-ice activi-
ties and other events. At the writing
of this newsletter, open skating and
open hockey are available for up to 25
people as long as they pre-register
for the event; please see our website
for details. The Senior Center is open
Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm City
meeting/rental spaces have reduced
capacities per state requirements,
allowing for social distancing.

The Rogers Muni on-sale liquor
operation on John Milless Drive has
been suspended since March 17, 2020
(pursuant to Governor’s executive
order at that time). While other bars
and restaurants have been allowed
to reopen at reduced capacity, the
Muni has remained closed for several
reasons:

• Bars have been identified as be-
ing ‘problematic’ by both the CDC
and the Minnesota Department of
Health with regard to the spread
of COVID. MDH periodically releas-
es a list of bars and restaurants
that have been directly linked to
coronavirus outbreaks for this
reason.

As we continue to navigate this unprecedented situation, we remain committed to the idea that we are a
community of people that truly care about their neighbors, and are committed to showing grace and pa-
tience in the face of adversity and honest disagreement while partnering to get to the other side of the
pandemic. Thank you and stay healthy, Rogers!
For any questions about carbon monoxide alarms, call 763-428-3500 or email RogersFD@rogersmn.gov!

Did You Know?

• Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas.

• Signs of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation.

• Cooking and heating units that burn fuel and are not properly ventilated or malfunction can be a source of CO in the home.

BNSF RAILROAD NIGHTTIME OPERATIONS

Residents near the BNSF railroad tracks south of I-94 have no doubt experienced some unwelcome train whistle noise during the late-night hours over the past few months.

The railway segment in question is called the Monticello Subdivision, as it terminates in Monticello to our west. BNSF government/public relations folks have informed the City that Coronavirus-related operational changes have resulted in this route running at night as opposed to during the day as was previously the case. Where the previous schedule was roughly one to three trains per week during daytime hours, the more recent changes have resulted in late night trips, typically multiple times per week. The City does not know how long these changes will last or whether they will be temporary or permanent in nature.

Per federal law, the City does not have jurisdiction over railroads with regard to hours of operation (whether travel or loading/unloading), so City zoning or noise ordinances are not applicable and cannot be used to control these operations.

The City is studying the issue with regard to “quiet” zones that would limit and/or prevent whistles from blowing in proximity to certain railroad crossings. However, in order to implement quiet zones, the City would be required to invest significant tax dollars in order to improve existing crossings with cross-arms and lights, as well as to pay substantial up-front maintenance costs to BNSF ($400,000 in maintenance costs alone, per crossing, plus equipment/construction costs costs).

While actual costs are not known at this time, the likely total cost for such improvements to meet quiet zone requirements would be in the millions of dollars due to the number of crossings and the required improvements. A major part of the City’s analysis involves whether this would be a wise long-term investment given that BNSF could, at any time in the future (tomorrow, post-Coronavirus, later) simply revert to their daytime schedules which generally did not cause noise concerns for residential neighborhoods, thus making the expenditure unnecessary at that time. This is a difficult determination as the City understands the annoyance and inconvenience of such late-night noise in the short term, while looking to avoid a substantial cost to taxpayers that could wind up being largely wasted dollars over the long term.

We understand and sympathize with the noise situation as it relates to nearby residences, and we appreciate the patience and understanding of those homeowners with regard to the complexities of this issue as noted above.

The Senior Center is open Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This is for those who would like to:
• Grab a library book
• Use the computers
• Buy an upcycled greeting card
• Borrow a puzzle.

We are asking that you come in, do your “business,” and be on your way, so staff can sanitize for the next person. We will allow 8 visitors at a time. Each person will sign in with their name, the date, and their phone number. If you are not able to visit the Senior Center during these hours, please email jriebel@rogersmn.gov or call Jackie at 763-428-0939 for an appointment.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS!**

- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping room or inside each sleeping room.
- Test CO alarms monthly.
- If a CO alarm sounds and you feel ill, call 911 immediately.
- Clear snow and debris from furnace, dryer, fireplace or oven vents around your home to prevent a CO buildup.

For any questions about carbon monoxide alarms, call 763-428-3500 or email RogersFD@rogersmn.gov!

**What you need to know about carbon monoxide alarms!**

- Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas.
- Signs of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation.
- Cooking and heating units that burn fuel and are not properly ventilated or malfunction can be a source of CO in the home.
Municipal liquor was introduced to the State of Minnesota when the 21st Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, ending alcohol prohibition on December 5, 1933.

The repeal of the Volstead Act started the process which allowed each state to develop and control an appropriate delivery model for alcoholic beverages that suited their social climate. Some local Minnesota communities chose to continue prohibition, some chose municipal liquor; others gave the option to private business.

Since its inception Municipal liquor’s major focus is control of the sale of alcohol. We work very hard to assure that we do not allow the sale of alcohol to obviously intoxicated persons or anyone who is not of legal drinking age. We understand that the sale of a controlled substance is a serious responsibility, not merely a revenue generator.

Positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of batteries to prevent fires. If you cannot remove the battery from the device, bring the entire device to a Hennepin County drop-off facility.

Alkaline batteries (single-use AA, AAA, etc.) do not contain hazardous material and may be placed in the trash.

On the recycling page you can also find pick up information on holidays throughout 2021. Holidays include New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Randy’s office is closed on the holidays listed above. For any specific questions about recycling, please contact Randy’s at 763-972-3335!
The City of Rogers Public Works Department is committed to keeping our streets as safe as possible within staffing and budget parameters. Staff begins plowing when snowfall reaches 2 inches or when roadway conditions warrant a response by Public Works. Equipment dispatch is dependent upon timing and intensity, weather forecast, personnel, equipment availability, and street priority classification. Trails and sidewalks within arterial and collector streets and school walking zones are the City’s main priority to plow within a 24-hour period. Due to environmental concerns, sand/salt will be limited to steep hills are slippery and drive according to road conditions.

Snowbanks and Winter Fun
Please discourage children from sliding from snowbanks and from building forts in snowbanks close to streets. Children playing on or near the road are a concern for snowplow operators. Many times, operators are unable to see a child behind a snowbank or parked car. Children playing on or near the road are a concern for snowplow operators. Many times, operators are unable to see a child behind a snowbank or parked car.

Salt Use
Road salt and deicing chemicals are carried by melted snow and ice through sewers, leading to streams, rivers, and lakes, killing fish and plants. The City of Rogers has taken measures to limit the amount of salt used on its streets. The City plows curb-to-curb, using liquid additives that enhance the salt’s effectiveness and equipment that applies more liquid brine and less granular salt. Less than one teaspoon of salt will pollute five gallons of water. Once water is polluted, it is nearly impossible to reverse.

Sweep Up Leftover Salt
When the ice has melted, sweep up the remaining salt and sand from your driveway or in your own driveway. You can use it again and help reduce the amount flowing into storm drains and into the water system.

Shovel More
Shovel early and often during a snowstorm. This is easier on your back and the snow won’t compact as much and turn to ice.

Winter Driving
For your safety as well as others, allow ample room between your vehicle and snow removal equipment. Do not pass until the plow has reached a safe, clear area, and never pass on the right side of a snowplow. Always assume that intersections, curves, bridges, and hills are slippery and drive according to road conditions.

Know When to Use Salt
If it is 15 degrees or below, most salt doesn’t work. When it is this cold, sand is a good alternative.

Trash and Recycling Containers
Please place trash and recycling containers in your driveway for collection. If snowplow operators have to stop and get out of the truck to move them off the right of way, it increases the time and costs of snow removal.

Mail/Paper Boxes
Mail and paper boxes must be mounted a minimum of 45 inches above street level. Properly installed mailboxes will be considered for repair or replacement only if physically struck by snowplow equipment. Installations damaged by snow or ice coming from the plow blade will not be repaired or replaced. The City of Rogers Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Post Office are requesting you help keep the area around your mailbox clear of snow. This will enable the postal carriers to deliver your mail without delay.

Picture of properly placed garbage and recycling containers.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as crews work to clear snow safely and effectively from our City streets and trails. Depending on the timing and severity of the snow event, it may take hours or days to clear all of the snow. Be safe while clearing and driving on snow and ice this winter!
WINTER DRIVING TIPS FROM THE ROGERS POLICE DEPARTMENT!

Another winter driving season is just around the corner. The Rogers Police Department would like to remind you of some simple winter driving survival tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during the upcoming winter season.

Make sure your vehicle is in good working order. Check tire pressure, change worn out wiper blades, check the battery condition, check fluid levels and clean off the windshield prior to driving are simple things that if not maintained properly, can cause issues or breakdowns on winter roads.

Slow Down! Winter weather also means it is holiday season. The City of Rogers sees a dramatic increase in traffic during the holiday season. Wet, icy and/or snow packed roads can easily double the amount of space required to adequately stop your vehicle once you apply the brakes. Pay close attention to changing road conditions and traffic while you are driving. Many of us are out with friends and family and can easily become distracted while driving, so ensure you are focused on driving not visiting or using your cell phone.

Stay in your vehicle. If you are involved in an accident, and it is feasible, move to safe location and call 911. Staying inside of your vehicle will be a much safer place to be rather than standing on the side of a roadway where other vehicles may strike you.

Carry a simple winter survival kit. A kit can be made out of items you have in your home, placed in a tote, and be left in your vehicle during the winter. A shovel, blanket, first aid kit, small bag of kitty litter for tire traction and a flashlight are items that can easily be stored in your vehicle in case of an emergency. Even within the city limits during severe weather, officers respond to hundreds of accidents and vehicle spinouts in a single day, and response times for assistance can be much longer than usual. Please plan accordingly and let a loved one know your travel plans should you be traveling long distances.

These simple reminders will help make certain your holidays and winter travels are safe for you and others. Please be safe!

SCAM ALERT!

The Rogers Police Department has observed an uptick in scam attempts. Many common fraud/scam examples include:

- Phone calls or emails indicating that you have won the lottery, or a prize, and you need to send money somewhere for the taxes before you can receive the item.
- Fraudulent emergency situations in which the caller states a close family member has been arrested in a foreign country, and you need to wire them money immediately if you want your family member released.
- Fraudulent emails or phone calls stating you owe taxes to the IRS, and that you need to send money to clear your name, or you will be arrested.
- Agreements to purchase items where you are told that you will receive a higher than agreed upon check/amount if you send a lesser amount of money initially.

Should you experience any of these fraud attempts, or other similar scams, please contact Rogers Police.

DON’T FORGET ABOUT THE WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Parking is prohibited on city streets between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, from November 1 through March 31. Additionally, the City may remove a vehicle from a street when the vehicle is left unattended and hinders snow removal.

Please do your part to ensure we keep our streets clear, especially during snow events!
Development activity remains busy in Rogers, especially on the residential front. Recognizing Rogers location in the metropolitan area, successful schools and a strong daytime labor force, developers are seizing opportunities to build new neighborhoods and fill much needed housing options. Those options include not only continued construction of single-family homes but also an increased diversity in housing styles, such as twin homes and townhomes, and new market rate apartments and wider array of attainable housing that is of interest to persons of any age and income.

Apartments Popularity
An area of significant need for Rogers is multi-family housing. It might seem the popularity of apartment development in the community is sudden. But, until Trident Development began construction of its 168-unit Vincent Woods apartment complex in 2019, the newest market rate apartment building in Rogers is nearly 20 years old. In addition to age, factors driving the need for newer apartments in Rogers include the City’s strong daytime labor force from our local employers, the price of new single-family home construction, and changing lifestyle preferences for young and old alike.

Enclave Development to Start Construction
On August 25, 2020, the City Council gave the green light for the 165-unit apartment project proposed by Enclave Development, a Fargo, North Dakota-based development company. The development will sit on a current vacant 3.3-acre parcel adjacent to HGM Furniture and between BMO Harris Bank and North Community Park. The complex will include a mix of studio up to three (3) bedroom apartments, and on-site amenities, including a fitness center, pet wash, bike storage, and large club room connected to an outside courtyard. Construction will begin this fall.
Mix of Apartments & Townhomes
Behind Culver’s
Rachel Development recently presented a Concept Plan to the City Council for a mixed residential development, featuring a 134-unit apartment building and 50 attached townhome units. Like several of the sites approved for apartment development, or currently being analyzed, the 14.8-acre parcel behind Culver’s is a remnant parcel from previous development.

New Neighborhoods Update
DR Horton Residential Neighborhood Underway
Construction has begun on “Birchwood” - a 61-unit detached single-family residential development from DR Horton. The development is located on a 21-acre site on Brockton Lane, or County Road 13, about a half-mile north from South Diamond Lake Road. Housing styles include a mix of homes with traditional basements, and split entry and slab-on-grade homes. DR Horton is constructing model homes and the amenity center for the private park located in the development.

Grading for New Lennar Development to Begin
Lennar has commenced grading of its latest Rogers neighborhood - “Skye Meadows.” Lennar received City Council approval in July 2020 for the new 357-unit residential development at the intersection of Territorial Road and Wood Lane. The development encompasses six properties and about 128 gross acres, and includes a mix of single-family homes, twin homes and attached townhomes. Phase 1 (north side of Territorial Road) will include 16 single-family homes and 12 twin homes (24 total units). Lennar is also building “Laurel Creek,” a 480-unit mixed residential development on Territorial Road 2.5 miles east from Skye Meadows.

Commercial/Industrial
Space for Trades & Service Businesses
The City is currently working with a developer on a potential development plan for land owned by the City on County Road 81. The 18-acre parcel fronts interstate 94 and sits in between Miller Chevrolet and Metro Mold. The land was purchased by the City to help with the extension of City utilities, and is mostly wetland, limited development options. The developer presented a Concept Plan to the City Council in September 2020, featuring a 20,736 square foot, 10-unit commercial building on the north end of the parcel, next to the Miller Chevrolet, and two 11,520 square foot, 6-unit commercial buildings.

At that meeting, the developer and City staff discussed the market need for spaces for trades businesses and service providers. The units could be leased or sold. The developer noted unit sizes could also be flexible in the event that a user needed a larger space. The City Council authorized continued study of the development opportunity.

Development news
IN ROGERS, MINNESOTA
CONTINUED..
The City Council recently entered into two purchase agreements – buy 12905 Main Street and sell the adjacent five City properties – necessary for Phase 1 of the Downtown Rogers redevelopment project proposed by Duffy Development. The City and developer have been awarded nearly $1.9 million in grant funding for the project to support development-related activities, including property acquisition, building demolition, on-site storm water improvements, and construction of on-site pedestrian improvements, plazas and greenspaces. As an affordable housing project, Duffy is seeking tax credit financing from the State. If the project gets the green light construction could start in Spring 2021.

Downtown Planning

The downtown redevelopment project proposed by Duffy Development is only part of the ongoing work focused on downtown reinvestment. City staff are currently working on two projects aimed at re-energizing Downtown Rogers. The recently approved Rogers 2040 Comprehensive Plan places a renewed emphasis on Downtown Rogers as an important community asset – vital to the local economy and community gatherings. The traditional feel of Main Street presents a unique opportunity for the downtown to fulfill a dual role as a social district for community gatherings and hub of activity for commerce and residential living. That is accomplished through both new public and private investment.

Rogers Main Street Streetscape Plan

The Rogers Main Street Streetscape Plan is focused on redesigning Main Street from County Road 81 south to Rogers Elementary School. A main emphasis of the streetscape plan is to create spaces for people and connect those spaces to businesses and residences in the downtown area. Generally, the plan includes new public spaces for downtown and other physical enhancements to improve and encourage pedestrian activity by calming traffic on Main Street. The Streetscape Plan is a critical support tool for the Downtown Master Plan.
ICE SKATING
Rogers Activity Center offers many forms of ice-skating for Fall and Winter including Learn to Skate, Special Events, Glow 'N' Skates, Open Skating, and Adult Open & Pond Hockey; however, note that there are limitations as we must follow MDH stay-safe guidelines due to COVID. Visit www.rogersmn.gov for details, schedules, events, restrictions and cancellations.

Learn to Skate  (Ages 4 - Adult)

Special Event Skates
– Tentatively Scheduled
Glow-n-Skates
October 28 (Halloween Skate), November 25 (Gobbler Skate), January 27, February 24, March 10 6:00–7:15 p.m., and December 31, 6:00–7:15 p.m.
Fee: $5.00 – Includes glow necklace/ no punch cards or passes accepted

Indoor Open Skate | All Ages
Sundays Oct 11 - Mar 7 4:00pm – 5:15pm
Wednesdays Oct 7 – Mar 10 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Open Skate schedules are subject to change. Visit our website at www.RAC.rogersmn.gov for COVID requirements and frequent updates at www.rogersmn.gov. $4/skater; age 5 & under free $34/10-day punch card

Adult & Pond Hockey
For schedules and times please visit www.rogersmn.gov/publicskating. The schedule is updated weekly.

Outdoor Rinks
Neighborhood skating rinks will open mid-December (weather permitting). Ice rinks will close when temperature drops -20° with wind chill. Locations are Lions Central Park and Rogers Activity Center (RAC); however, note that Lions Central Park will only have a pleasure rink, no hockey. Outdoor hockey will be available at the RAC; check times and availability as there may be scheduled youth practices and rink closures due to high school hockey games. Visit www.rogersmn.gov/publicskating for more information on outdoor rinks.

OPEN GYM
Open gym is a supervised recreation time for individuals to work on their skills in various sports, get a workout and socialize. Changes may be made to the schedule, so always check before dropping a child off at the school. Youth under 11 must have a responsible adult in attendance. Visit www.isd728.org/open-gym for more information!

EXCITING NEWS
-ROGERS EVENT CENTER
The Rogers Event Center has a range of amenities to meet our community’s needs, from business meetings to weddings to other private and public events. The Event Center features a conference room that will accommodate 50+ people, a full-service commercial kitchen, and a permanent coffee & wine bar. The Great Hall can accommodate seated banquets of 300. The Event Center is located in Lions Central Park (formerly Triangle Park) on Main Street, just south of Downtown Rogers, a centralized location for community gatherings. Please go to our website www.rogersmn.gov/rogers-event-center to find out more information on how you can schedule your next event or tour! Please note current (when the newsletter was printed) COVID guidelines: Due to MDH and CDC guidelines, we can accommodate 25% capacity at this time.