



Rice Lake News Jan 2025

Happy New Year

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor
Suzanne Herstad



Councilor
Jayme Heim



Councilor
John Hegstrom



Councilor
Bob Quade



Councilor
Mike Hendrickson

	Approved 2024	Proposed 2025
REVENUE BUDGET		
Property Taxes	\$ 1,816,054.00	\$ 1,830,620.00
Special Assessments	\$ 63,463.20	\$ 65,158.76
Licenses & Permits	\$ 68,425.00	\$ 67,450.00
Federal Grants	\$ -	\$ -
State General Purpose Aid	\$ 680,183.00	\$ 680,916.00
State Categorical Aid	\$ 57,911.00	\$ 74,409.00
Grants from County/Local Governments	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 13,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 6,500.00
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Interest on Checking/Investments	\$ 525.00	\$ 15,100.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,750.00
Other Financing Sources	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,731,061.20	\$2,764,403.76
EXPENDITURE BUDGET		
General Government	\$ 505,620.00	\$ 534,120.00
Public Safety	\$ 542,187.00	\$ 364,561.00
Streets & Highways	\$ 549,157.00	\$ 538,800.00
Sanitation	\$ 12,868.50	\$ 13,071.50
Human Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Health	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Culture & Recreation	\$ 66,958.76	\$ 21,011.00
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Economic Development	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Debt Service - Principal	\$ 137,554.99	\$ 102,538.73
Interest & Fiscal Charges	\$ 115,205.28	\$ 206,034.24
Street & Highways Construction	\$ 161,526.19	\$ 160,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 140,898.45	\$ 100,000.00
Other Financing Uses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,361,976.17	\$2,170,136.47

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
7:30 AM to 4:30 PM



CITY HALL STAFF

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Toni Blomdahl
218-249-0733
tblomdahl@ricelakecitymn.com

DEPUTY CLERK

Kim Sarvi
218-249-0916
kims@ricelakecitymn.com

BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Carley Hungerford
218-249-0947
carleyh@ricelakecitymn.com

DEPUTY CLERK / UTILITIES

Robin Murphy
218-249-0917
robin@ricelakecitymn.com

DEPUTY CLERK

Kathy Lafave
218-249-0623

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF (Roads, Utilities, Facilities)

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

Shayne Downey
218-249-0818
shayne@ricelakecitymn.com

Justin Schendel
Justin Aleshire
Justin Rosencrans

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Jessica Rahja
218-590-8859

City of Rice Lake 2025 Approved Levy		
2024 APPROVED LEVY	FUND	2025 APPROVED LEVY
\$ 225,212.00	General Fund	\$ 215,555.00
\$ 270,550.00	Administration	\$ 311,085.00
	Public Works/Park/City Hall/ Fire Hall	
\$ 128,548.00	Buildings & Grounds	\$ 120,249.00
\$ 70,340.00	Planning & Zoning	\$ 64,310.00
\$ 195,956.00	Fire Department Operations	\$ 182,473.00
\$ 724,132.00	Road & Bridge	\$ 708,400.00
\$ -	Fire Truck	\$ -
\$ -	Capital Improvements	\$ -
\$ -	Machine Equipment	\$ -
\$ 1,614,738.00	TOTAL BUDGET LEVY	\$ 1,602,072.00
The following is informational only		
2023	DEBT LEVY	2024
\$ 130,000.00	West Calvary Bond	\$ 130,000.00
\$ 71,316.00	Public Works Addition	\$ 69,930.00
\$ -	Fire Turnout Gear	\$ 28,618.00
\$ 201,316.00	TOTAL DEBT LEVY	\$ 228,548.00
\$ 1,816,054.00	TOTAL LEVY	\$ 1,830,620.00
The 2025 levy is an increase of 1.008%		

Calendar of Meetings and Events

(Subject to change—check our website calendar for the most current meeting/event information)

Wed. Jan. 1	New Years Day	Closed	Mon. Feb. 10	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Mon. Jan. 6	Finance Meeting	6:00 PM	Mon. Feb. 17	President's Day	Closed
Mon. Jan 13	Council Meeting	6:00 PM	Tue. Feb. 18	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Thu. Jan. 16	Duluth Area Townships	6:30 PM	Mon. Feb. 24	City Council	6:00 PM
Mon. Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day	Closed	Wed. Mar. 5	Community Club	6:30 PM
Tue. Jan, 21	Planning Commission	6:00 PM	Mon. Mar. 10	City Council	6:00 PM
Mon. Jan. 27	Council Meeting	6:00 PM	Tue. Mar. 18	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Sun. Feb. 2	Winter Frolic (City Park)	1:00 PM	Thu. Mar. 20	Duluth Area Townships	6:30 PM
Wed. Feb. 5	Community Club	6:30 PM	Mon. Mar. 24	City Council	6:00 PM

All Meetings/Events are held at Rice Lake City Hall unless noted otherwise.

2025 Approved Fee Schedules (General, Utilities, and Building)

<u>General:</u>	<u>2025</u>	
Faxes/scan and email	\$2.50	
Copies - black and white (per page)	\$0.25	
Copies - color (per page)	\$0.50	
Copies of minutes - (per page)	\$0.35	
NSF checks	\$30.00	
<u>Animal Control</u>		
Lifetime License and Tag	\$25.00	
Senior discount - 60 and over	\$10.00	
Tag replacement (1 free)	\$1.00	
Unlicensed dog	\$60.00	
Running at large	\$60.00	
Pick up fee	\$60.00	
Habitual Barking fee	\$60.00	
Boarding charges determined by A.C. officer		
<u>City Hall rental</u>	Residential	Non Residential
Damage deposit	\$150.00	\$150.00
4 hours	\$50.00	\$75.00
Full Day	\$100.00	\$125.00
Receptions/dances 4 hours	\$150.00	\$200.00
Receptions/dances all day	\$300.00	\$400.00
Funeral/Celebration of Life	\$25.00	\$50.00
Office		
Office all day	\$50.00	\$75.00
<u>Park Pavillion</u>		
Rental Fee	\$25.00	\$50.00
Damage Deposit	\$25.00	\$25.00
Gate Key Deposit	\$25.00	\$25.00
<u>Newspaper</u>	B+W/Color	4x BW/Color
Business card size	\$20 / \$30	\$60 / \$90
1/4 page ad	\$40 / \$60	\$120 / \$180
1/2 page ad	\$70 / \$100	\$210 / \$300
Full page ad	\$150 / \$200	\$450 / \$600
<u>Liquor License</u>		
on-sale annual fee	\$2,560.00	
off-sale annual fee	\$240.00	
Sunday on-sale annual fee	\$200.00	
<u>Misc</u>		
Assessment Searches	\$25.00	
Clerical Research	\$35/hour	
Fireworks sales permit	\$110.00	
Administration Fee	\$25.00	

<u>Building:</u>	<u>2025</u>
<u>Flat Rate (residential)</u>	
Re-Roof Permit**	\$49.00
Re-Siding Permit**	\$49.00
Window Replacement**	\$49.00
Door Replacement**	\$49.00
Plumbing Permit (natural gas)**	\$99.00
Plumbing Permit**	\$34.00 + \$15/fixture
Mechanical Permit (natural gas)**	\$99.00
Mechanical Permit**	\$34.00 + \$15/fixture
<u>Residential</u>	
Detached Garage/Accessory Bldg** (less than 1200 sq ft)	\$199.00
Mobile/Manufactured Home Setting Fee**	\$499.00
Demo Permit	\$0.00
Plan Review Fee	50% of permit fee
(Plan review fees will be charged for new construction including additions and decks.)	
All other permit fees are based on value (See Schedule A)	
<u>Commercial</u>	
Plan Review Fee	65% of permit fee
Demo Permit	\$0.00
All other permit fees are based on value (See Schedule B)	
<u>Other</u>	
Sign permit**	\$49.00
Right of way	\$50.00
Right of way Obstruction Permit	\$50.00
Driveway	\$50.00 + \$100 deposit
Road Restriction Permit	\$50.00
**add flat rate state surcharge	\$1.00
<u>Zoning:</u>	
See ordinance #22 for all zoning related fees	
Zoning Map	\$5.00
Comprehensive land use plan	\$20.00



Hey! Don't forget...

Dog Licenses Required in Rice Lake

Lifetime License Fee: **\$25.00** per license
(includes one free replacement tag)

Residents age **60 or over** are eligible for a
reduced rate of \$10.00 per
Lifetime license.

Lifetime Licenses are good for the life of your dog!
Licenses are available at City Hall.

Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit card.
If paying by card an additional 3% +.30 is charged by the credit processing company.

<u>Utilities:</u>	<u>2025</u>
<u>One Time:</u>	
Application	\$25.00
Shut off / turn on (delinquent account)	\$70.00
Water shut off notice	\$20.00
Voluntary shut off	\$25.00
Voluntary turn on	\$25.00
Administration Fee	\$25.00
Lateral Inspection Fee	\$75 for 1st hour & \$35/hour after
After hour emergency call out (per hr - 1 hr min)	\$150.00
<u>Monthly:</u>	
Water (Tier 1 - 10-1000 gal.) *minimum applies	\$19.81
Water (Tier 2 - 1001-2000 gal.)	\$20.01
Water (Tier 3 - 2001-3000 gal.)	\$20.21
Water (Tier 4 - 3001-4000 gal.)	\$20.40
Water (Tier 5 - >4000 gal.)	\$20.60
Water service charge (all usage levels)	\$11.25
Sewer (Tier 1 - 10-1000 gal.) *minimum applies	\$16.81
Sewer (Tier 2 - 1001-2000 gal.)	\$16.98
Sewer (Tier 3 - 2001-3000 gal.)	\$17.15
Sewer (Tier 4 - 3001-4000 gal.)	\$17.31
Sewer (Tier 5 - >4000 gal.)	\$17.48
Sewer service charge	\$17.34
Sewer and water flat fee (unmetered usage)	\$80.00
Water meter (customer requested replacement)	\$75 deposit
Damaged water meter replacement	Actual Cost
Late fee	5% (\$1 min.)
I & I non-compliance fee	\$75.00
*Water & Sewer minimum charge for 1000 gallons applies for 10-1000 gallons. Rates charged per gallon from 1001 and up. Under 10 gallons - no charge.	
<u>Bulk Water:</u>	
Bulk water per 1000 gal *minimum applies	\$22.00
Hydrant Use Permit	\$25.00
Hydrant Meter Setup and Removal	\$25.00
Hydrant Meter Fee (Monthly)**	\$25.00
Hydrant Meter Damage Deposit (refunded with 21 business days if no damage occurred)**	\$250.00
**Fee only applies to permit holders requiring meter for more than one time use.	
<u>Connection fees:</u>	
Residential - per structure connection	
Sewer connection	\$900.00
Water connection	\$675.00
CAF Sewer	\$940.00
CAF Water	\$1,167.00
Commercial - per structure connection	
Water connection	\$975.00
Sewer connection	\$1,100.00
CAF Sewer and water	see WLSSD
Trunk Fee - see Ord. #44	
<u>Other</u>	
Contractor Permit - Annual (ROW permit also required)	\$25.00
Antenna Site Application	\$300.00

Mayor's Corner

Suzanne Herstad, Mayor



On December 9th, 2024, the city council passed Resolution 24-33, setting the 2025 levy, which determines the tax burden for local residents. Historically, this levy has increased over recent years, raising concerns for many taxpayers. Some may recall that I campaigned on lowering taxes during my elected four-year term, but I am still serving the remainder of my appointed term. I knew we had a shortfall

to address from previous spending, but I had hoped for a net-zero budget for this budget season. Let's take a look at where we ended up.

The city's budgeting season begins in August, when dates are set for meetings to discuss the following year's budget. During this time, the City Administrator, Public Works Supervisor, and Fire Chief draft their budgets, keeping in mind planned projects and estimates. This approach is relatively new, as in the past, unplanned purchases made it difficult to manage the budget effectively.

Each department head compares the previous year's budget to current expenditures to estimate what will be needed for the upcoming year. The city council also reviews these figures, especially when significant increases are noticed in budget line items. The same budget is then used throughout the year to ensure spending stays within the approved amounts.

This year, budget discussions began with some back-and-forth between myself and the council. I advocated for using Local Government Aid (LGA) funds to provide relief to taxpayers. I recall a conversation I had with Representative Natalie Zeleznikar, who, along with Senator Grant Hauschild, had supported a \$100,000 increase in our LGA funding. Zeleznikar, hoping this increase would lead to tax relief, was surprised when our taxes still went up. I explained that we had been advised against using LGA money to supplement the budget due to its uncertain nature. The funds could be taken away at any time, potentially creating a large budget shortfall. However, that conversation, combined with feedback from residents, has shifted my perspective on how we use LGA funds moving forward.

One budget item to mention, we did have a lease payment due for new fire turnout gear for the fire department of \$28,618. This gear is used to protect our members while they serve our community.

An unexpected hurdle in this year's budgeting process was a significant increase in administrative salaries. After a recent title change from city clerk to city administrator, it was recognized that the city had been underpaying for the position. This salary adjustment made it clear that my goal of a net-zero tax increase was no longer achievable. In the end, the levy increased by 1%, resulting in an additional \$14,566—still a relatively modest increase.

While I didn't achieve the exact tax relief I had hoped for, the final compromise prevented a larger tax increase that was originally proposed. My vote, as mayor, is only one out of five. I do not have a weighted vote, and my role is to offer my voice and perspective, just as my fellow council members do.

In the end, while taxpayers may not see the significant relief they had hoped for, the 1% increase reflects a balanced approach to managing the city's finances. It addresses both necessary budgetary needs and the pressure to keep taxes as manageable as possible. Remember, the city council controls the city budget, but we have no authority over county or school district budgets.

Rice Lake Public Works

Shayne Downey, Public Works Supervisor

Road Maintenance

Throughout the fall months, the road maintenance crew was very busy wrapping up the ditching jobs that needed to be completed before spreading the new gravel on the selected roads for 2024. October 7th was the first day we had access to our gravel at the Ross Creek Pit. The first week we hit the roads running completing Lonely Pine Dr, Fauvelle Rd, Summers Rd, Olson Rd, and Highland Trail. We then moved to Luzerne Rd between Drake Rd and Howard Gnesen Rd. Luzerne was a long stretch of approximately 3,500' starting at Howard Gnesen Rd and stopping at 4240 Luzerne Rd. Next, was Kingston Rd, spreading approximately 1,500' of gravel from 4250 to Drake Rd. This section was one of the areas we ditched during the summer months. We moved on to Reid Rd, and spread approx. 1,000' of gravel from Riley Rd to 5037 Reid Rd. This road was also ditched later in the summer months. Next was Townline Rd, with this road being one of the worst of all the roads we spread gravel on this year, in my opinion. There were many areas in the road where the road mat was visible from trying to grade this road previously. Cooper Rd. was the last and final road of this year. We spread gravel from the bottom of the hill to the dead end. As we move into the winter months, I would like to stress the importance of not leaving vehicles parked on the roadway, along with the placement of your garbage and recycling cans. Vehicles parked on the roadways make it very difficult to plow the roads safely and efficiently. Garbage and recycling cans should be placed near the end of your driveway, not on the roadway.

City Park

The park is closed for normal operation, but we are doing our best to keep the sidewalk open towards the pond, as we keep the snow cleaned off the pond for the public to use for skating.

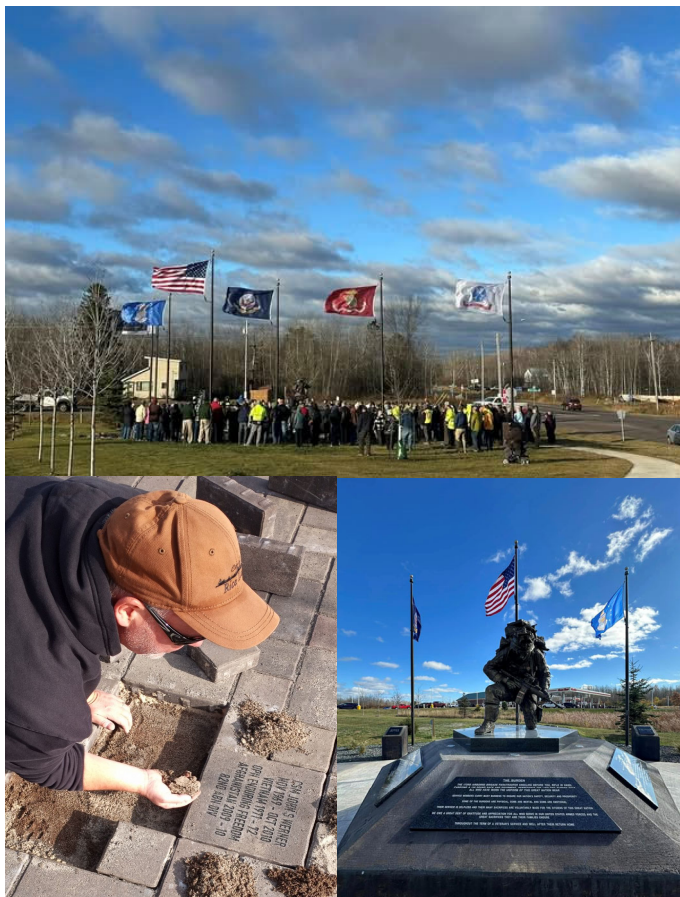
Utilities

Rice Lake Rd sewer main extension has been completed and the lift station is up and running, along with the watermain extension on Martin Rd. Both projects went relatively smoothly, and the city is excited to offer the public more services as we work on expanding our utilities.

Veterans Day Rice Lake Memorial Dedication

The Rice Lake Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony held on Monday, November 11 (Veteran's Day) had a great turnout with many community members and supporters attending despite the very windy cold weather. The dedication itinerary included a touching rendition of Taps along with a 21 gun salute provided by the American Legion Post 71 Honor Guard. A beautiful performance of the National Anthem was given by Shannon Johnson. Invocation and Benediction by Pastor Derrick Marshall. Poems read by Barb Montee and Gage Blomdahl. A memorial wreath placed by Merry Waters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Despite speaker system issues, Former St. Louis County Attorney, Mark Rubin did a great job as the main speaker for the dedication, describing the vision of those involved in creating this memorial and what it means for our community and our veterans. Other speakers included Mayor Suzanne Herstad, Representative Natalie Zeleznikar, Pat Gallagher with Kraus Anderson, Tom Werner, Son of former Mayor John Werner and words from Senator Amy Klobuchar were read by a representative from her office. Due to the high winds a fly by of the 148th fighter wing was not possible.

Thanks to all who made this event possible and those who attended!



John S. Werner memorial paver

The Burden statue

Emerald Ash Borer in the Duluth Area - What to Do

Since emerald ash borer (EAB) was first found in Duluth in 2015, it has expanded into all parts of town and has found its way to Cloquet and Two Harbors. The experience of Winnipeg, Manitoba has taught us that, while cold temperatures may slow EAB down, they will not eliminate the problem.

Correctly identifying ash trees on your property is not difficult, and there are many guides online that can help. In the greater Duluth area, any property owner with ash should presume that, with no interference on your part, EAB will colonize those trees and kill them.

Once you have identified your property's ash trees, it is important to assess the risk they pose to you or your property and whether you are comfortable with their level of risk. If you have any higher-value landscape trees, you can have them injected with an insecticide that will prevent EAB from colonizing it. If the trees on your property are among the menagerie of trees that form the forest at the edge of your lawn, removal may be in order. The Duluth area has several reputable tree service contractors who can assist you in safe ash removal from your property, as well as nurseries who can help you select and plant replacement seedlings.

Black ash swamps pose special challenges. The water table in black ash swamps can swing by three feet over the course of the growing season and black ash is the only species truly adapted to that fluctuation. The smart move is to plant seedlings while the ash trees are alive, otherwise the water table will fluctuate even more wildly without a forest using the water supply. Swamp white oak is the species best adapted to take the place of black ash trees. American elm, hackberry and bur oak are good choices. A mix of all four species is ideal. Only plant on the hummocks in a black ash swamp. Planting anywhere else will result in dead seedlings.

The worst move for any property owner is to ignore EAB and the damage it can cause. Ash is ubiquitous, especially in the built environment in Minnesota. It is only a matter of time before EAB will arrive on your property and once it does, it will cause damage.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html>

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/PDF/ashTreeIdentificationHandout.pdf>

Contact: Clark Christenson, City of Duluth Forester, 218-730-4328, cchristenson@duluthmn.gov



Article provided by Stephanie H.

To the Community of Rice Lake,

Attending the Veterans Day memorial at the beautiful new Rice Lake Veterans Memorial was a deeply moving experience. As I stood among so many community members and veterans, I felt immense pride—not only in honoring the sacrifices of those who served but also in witnessing the spirit of unity and gratitude that defines our community. The memorial is a testament to our shared commitment to remembering and honoring those who protected our freedoms, and it reflects the heart and resilience of Rice Lake. But Veterans Day was more than just a time to look back. It was also a reminder of the responsibility we have to keep building a brighter future for this community and all who call it home. Over the past year, I've worked hard to ensure that Rice Lake gets the resources it needs to thrive, and I'm proud to share some of the steps we've taken—and what lies ahead.



One of the most impactful projects we've secured funding for is the Rice Lake Road corridor improvement. Through state match dollars, we are making this critical infrastructure project a reality. By improving this corridor, we're laying the foundation for strategic development, making it easier for businesses to grow and for the community of Rice Lake to grow in a smart, sustainable, and strategic way. These improvements won't just enhance safety and connectivity; they will also help lower property tax burdens by driving economic growth and attracting new investments. This project is about more than roads—it's about creating a better quality of life for everyone in Rice Lake.

As we look to the next legislative session, my focus remains on addressing the needs of communities like ours. One of my top priorities is ensuring that families in Rice Lake have access to affordable childcare. I understand the strain that a lack of childcare options places on working parents and the broader community. That's why I am committed to supporting initiatives that expand childcare availability, invest in providers, and make it more affordable for families.

Another pressing issue is the state of rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Our EMS providers are a lifeline for communities like Rice Lake, and we must ensure they have the funding and resources necessary to continue their vital work. During the upcoming legislative session, I will champion increased support for rural EMS to strengthen their ability to respond quickly and effectively when emergencies arise.

I am also proud to prioritize Rice Lake's bonding request for a regional public safety facility during the 2025 session. This facility will be a game-changer for the community, enhancing emergency response times and ensuring our public safety officers have the tools they need to protect and serve us. Supporting this project is about investing in the safety and well-being of every resident, and I am committed to making it a reality.

Representing Rice Lake is an honor. This community exemplifies what makes Minnesota so special—a dedication to hard work, a commitment to caring for one another, and a belief in the promise of a better tomorrow. Whether it's honoring veterans, improving infrastructure, supporting families, or ensuring public safety, I will continue to fight for the priorities that matter most to you.

Thank you for the trust you've placed in me. Together, we can honor our past, meet the challenges of today, and build a brighter future for Rice Lake.

Sincerely,

Grant Hauschild
State Senator, Minnesota

Rice Lake Public Works Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

For those unable to attend, this event held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 began with the dedication of the expanded Public Works building located at 4065 Martin Road to honor former Mayor John S. Werner. John's son, Tom Werner, spoke of his dad and the dedication he had to this project, among others, making certain Rice Lake's infrastructure is setup for the future. A plaque commemorating his service to Rice Lake is installed outside the building. The ribbon cutting followed with refreshments and building tours. We thank those that came out to take part in this event.



Dear Northlanders,

As legislators prepare for the 2026 legislative session which begins in January, things will be very different this session.

For the second time in history, the House chamber has equal divided government with 67 members Democrats and 67 Republicans. This ends one party control which changes the rules of engagement. For example, with one party control the last two years, each committee had 2-3 more Democrats than Republicans. This meant one party controlled what bills could be heard or passed out of committee to make it to the House floor for a vote.

The 2026 session will consist of each committee comprised with an equal number of committee members representing both Democrats and Republicans. Each committee will have a Democrat and Republican Chair and Vice Chair. Leader Demuth will be the Republican speaker -designee and Republican Caucus Leader and Leader Hortman will be the Democrat speaker -designee and Democrat Caucus leader, both with equal power. A bill will only pass with bipartisan support.

This shared leadership team will be grappling with the consequences of the 2023-2024 session which spent the \$18 billion dollar surplus, increased government spending by \$10 billion and grew government by 40% with new departments as one example. The budget forecast reveals this spending pattern will create a \$5 billion dollar deficit in the near future without action taken by legislators. The reality is the state is spending more than it takes in from the taxes and fees you pay. Hard to believe, but true.

One thing is clear, I will be supporting all initiatives to hold government accountable to ensure current systems of checks and balance to prevent fraud levels of over \$445 million end. Where was fraud found by state auditors?

1. Feeding our Future = \$250 million
2. Child Care – CCAP \$100 million
3. Medicaid = \$50 million
4. Frontline Worker Pay after pandemic = \$45 million

This fraud and abuse happened from lack of basic accountability from the Minnesota Department of Education and Department of Human Services. With a looming deficit, and core services in our communities struggling, just imagine all the ways \$445 million could have been used.

Meanwhile, school districts statewide face devastating cuts totaling millions, childcares continue to close, excessive proposed & passed mandates continue to put financial pressure on nursing homes, assisted livings, childcare, & businesses when MN and the nation faces historic workforce challenges and an aging population.

As a member of the Aging and EMS (ambulance) task force, I am committed to be a voice for Greater Minnesota to seek solutions for issues like non-transportation services for those who no longer drive, and addressing the concerns citizens fear of how high their property taxes will rise? Minnesota has a spending problem, and one thing is for sure,



not one constituent is calling me asking to please increase their taxes. Not one. It is time to get back to funding core services and end pervasive fraud and abuse of tax dollars in MN. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns or questions. You can contact me at rep.natalie.zeleznikar@house.mn.gov or reach out to Karen, my Legislative Assistant, to schedule a meeting at 651-297-5603. You can access my page at www.house.mn.gov and then go to top and select House below menu. Then scroll to bottom and select Rep. Natalie Zeleznikar. You may elect to click on a link to subscribe to emails for updates. In addition, if you desire to text or call me on my cell phone, I can be reached at 218-409-6822.

Best,

Natalie Zeleznikar
State Representative, District 3B

Smart Salting

It's that time of year again! While snow and ice can be a big problem, road salt and deicers can be too. Following these smart salting techniques will save you time and money, as well as saving our aquatic ecosystems from pollution.



Smart Salting Steps

- Shovel First!**
Less snow means less ice, & less salt.
- Scatter Smart!**
Use salt only where critical. Aim for around 3 inches between salt grains.
- Switch** to a different deicer. Salt won't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction.
- Sweep** up & **save** any extra salt or sand to be used again.

We Want to Hear from You!

We encourage all community organizations, businesses and residents to submit articles or ads for the next issue of the Newsletter.

If you want to be added to the email list for notifications of deadlines to get your article or ad in the next Newsletter, email robin@ricelakecitymn.com or call 218-249-0917.



Welcome to

Family of God Lutheran Church, ELCA

4097 Martin Road Duluth, MN 55803
218-724-9210

www.fogduluth.org

office@fogduluth.org



*"Praising God, Strengthening Families,
Serving the Community"*

In-person sanctuary worship

8:45 a.m. Worship all Sundays

9:45 a.m. Coffee fellowship

10-10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Looking ahead:

Sunday, January 5

10:30 a.m. Re-Gift Bingo

Sunday, January 26

10:30 a.m. Worship at Open Arms Senior Living Center

Every Fourth Sunday of the month

Ash Wednesday is March 5

Quilters meet every Thursday, 9 a.m.

Men's Breakfast every Saturday

8 a.m. at The Other Place

Find worship online plus other resources on our Website: www.fogduluth.org and on YouTube



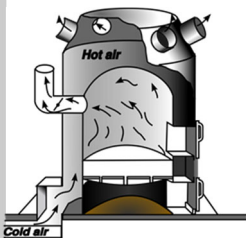
Like us on Facebook: our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/FamilyofGodDuluth

Rice Lake Lost and Found

There are times our staff or residents find items left at the City Park or City Hall. If you think you may have left something at one of these locations, give us a call at 218-721-3778 or stop in and give us a description of your lost item and we will check to see if we have it.

Getting a new furnace? Building a new deck? Replacing windows or doors? Remodeling?

Don't forget your building permit!



Applications are available on our website. Please contact Carley at 218-249-0947 or carleyh@ricelakecitymn.com with any building permit questions or to schedule an appointment to complete an application in person. Failure to obtain a required building permit may result in fines.

Safety Reminders

Winter is just around the corner and with winter comes snow and snow removal. Please remember to keep your trash and recycle bins at least 3 feet off the edge of road/shoulder and into your driveway so they are out of the way of the snowplow. Most garbage trucks are equipped with a hydraulic extending arm that grasps bins up to 5 feet away. Prompt removal of empty bins is also important.

Pushing snow into or across the road, no matter what method you use, creates icy ridges that are hazardous to motorists and damaging to vehicles and plows. It can also lead to costly road repairs, clogged ditches, and culverts. It is against the law and a misdemeanor under MN statute 160.2715 and a violation of City Ordinance 46, Sect 4. Any one who violates this ordinance is subject to a \$200 fine.



Rice Lake

Veterans Memorial Park

Engraved Brick Pavers

\$50 - 3 lines (5.5" x 5.5")

\$75 - 3 lines (11" x 5.5")

\$125 - 7 lines (11" x 11")



Order forms can be found on our website at <https://ricelakecitymn.com/community-information/> and available at City Hall

Rice Lake Recycle Shed

Hours:

- Tuesday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Thursday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Illegal Dumping Could Result in Fines.
Recycle Shed is Under Video Surveillance.

MIXED CONTAINERS: CONTAINS ALL 3 CATEGORIES BELOW

PLASTICS #1-#7:

- Check the bottom of containers to make sure they are labeled #1-7
- Rinse all food containers
- No FILM or PLASTIC BAGS in mixed (see update below)
- No Styrofoam
- No plastic cups, plates, or utensils
- No buckets
- No plastic that contained motor oil, antifreeze, or other automotive fluids
- Caps and lids can be included
- NO CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS (Bakery, strawberry, etc.)

STEEL CANS:

- Rinse all food containers
- Labels do not need to be removed
- Cans do not have to be flattened
- Do not include any non-food and beverage cans or scrap metal

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS:

- All colors of glass are accepted for recycling
- Rinse all food containers
- Labels do not need to be removed
- Do not include any window glass, canning jars, ceramics, dishes or drinking glasses

MIXED PAPER PRODUCTS:

- Press or pasteboard boxes and packaging (cereal and pop boxes, packing and clothing inserts, legal pad backing, etc.)
- Paper of any color
- Copy machine and un-coated fax machine paper
- Envelopes with or without windows or self-adhesive
- Tablets, legal pads, and notebook paper
- Junk mail
- Glossy pamphlets and brochures
- Manila folders and envelopes
- Newsletters
- Newspaper
- Shredded paper
- Carbon-less paper
- Paper ream wrappers
- Phone books
- Magazines

**CORRUGATED CARDBOARD:

- Cardboard that has a wavy layer in between two pieces of thick paper
- Paper bags
- Cardboard with printing or color
- No cardboard covered with paint, grease, or other contaminants
- No waxed cardboard

FILM PLASTICS:

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue, and Diaper packaging wrap
- Pallet and Case wrap
- Food Storage bags
- Bubble-wrap
- No black plastic bags

****If you have a large amount of corrugated cardboard, please bring it to the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center at 4587 Ridgeview Road.**

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

If you have a fire hydrant near your property, please take the time after a snow-fall to shovel around the hydrant so it is visible to the Fire Department and Rice Lake Public Works Department. Thank You!

Disclaimer

Any statement, views or opinions expressed in the Rice Lake News are those of the individual contributors.

Articles do not necessarily reflect the official action of the City of Rice Lake, the City Council, or any employees.

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The City of Rice Lake is not responsible for any problems that may arise during employment.

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Snow Removal Reminder

A friendly reminder to keep all your exterior doors free of snow. Even if you normally don't use the door, you should keep it clear at all times in case of an emergency.

TRASH IN WIPES

What is allowed in the toilet?
Only poo, pee & toilet paper!

What about products labeled as FLUSHABLE?

Companies that make wipes may claim their product is flushable, but there is currently no general agreement on what is "flushable." Wipes frequently stay durable through the plumbing system. They can get snagged on globs of fats, oils, and grease, forming "Fatbergs" that clog the sewer and lead to overflows and basement backups. Only flush products that break down in water within seconds, like toilet paper.

FLUSHABLE DOES NOT MEAN BIODEGRADABLE

THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

Avoid the **Unflushables**

Unflushables are items that are placed in households sinks and toilets that do not breakdown in water and eventually clog the sewer leading to overflows, basement backups, and costly expenses to residents and the city.

ITEMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CLOGS ARE:



Additional Unflushables:

- Cigarette Butts
- Facial Tissue & Cotton Balls
- Toilet Scrub Pads
- Napkins (Paper Or Cloth)
- Paper Towels
- Food and Kitchen Waste
- Fats, Oils, or Grease
- Household Chemicals
- Cleaning Products
- Automobile Fluids
- Paints, Solvents, Thinners or Sealants
- Syringes or Needles
- Plastic of any kind
- Vitamins or Supplements
- Medicines or Pharmaceuticals
- Coffee Waste
- Gloves
- Hot Wax

Wipes can cause breakdown of pumps in pump stations.

Wipes can combine with fats and grease in the pipe to form "Fatbergs" and are the primary causes of overflows from the manholes.

City of Rice Lake Shirt Orders

We have interest from residents about placing another shirt order. We need a minimum of 18 orders per Logo style (small and large). We currently have several pre-orders but not enough to meet the minimum. If you are interested, please contact Robin at 218-249-0917 or email rob-in@ricelakecitymn.com for pricing and to be put on the list. Prices range from \$16 to \$42 depending on shirt style. No money will be collected until we have enough to place an order. You will be contacted at that time.



Sizes XS-4XL



Sizes S-3XL



Sizes XS-4XL (both sweatshirts)

1301 American Apparel Heavyweight Unisex T-Shirt



Charcoal

True Navy

Black

AL6003 Allmade Unisex Tri-Blend Hoodie Tee



Aluminum Gray

Rebel Blue

Space Black

STF201 Sport-Tek Drive Fleece Hooded Full-Zip



Graphite Heather

True Navy

Black

ST271 Sport-Tek Lace Up Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt



Graphite Heather

True Navy

Black



Howard Gnesen Rd (CSAH 34) Planning Study

<https://engage.stlouiscountymn.gov/howard-gnesen-rd-planning-study>

Public Meeting: this is an upcoming stage for Howard Gnesen Rd (CSAH 34) Planning Study

In-Person

January 14, 2025 | 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM (Choose what time works for you)

St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Duluth, MN

Virtual

January 16, 2025 | 12:00 PM

Virtual Link: <https://bit.ly/HowardGnesenI>

Overview:

The three-mile section of Howard Gnesen Road (County State Aid Highway 34) from Arrowhead Road to Martin Road connects the City of Rice Lake and City of Duluth. Howard Gnesen Road serves as both a residential street and a major collector, connecting the cities of Rice Lake and Duluth. It connects residents to each other, Homecraft Elementary School, Hartley Park, shopping destinations located at the corner of Arrowhead Rd and Howard Gnesen Rd/Kenwood Ave and on to College of St Scholastica and University of Minnesota Duluth. There are also destinations to the north including an auto repair business, church, cemeteries and apartment buildings.

Today, most of this segment of Howard Gnesen Road is a 26' wide, two-lane road with no sidewalk and little or no shoulder. Though it is a scenic road, it lacks safe and comfortable facilities for people to walk, bike or roll (wheelchairs, scooters...). Howard Gnesen Road has been identified in multiple transportation plans as a significant gap in the area's bike and pedestrian networks.

Members of the community who live and travel along the road have also expressed concerns about high vehicle speeds and crashes. Curves and vegetation that create blind spots also cause safety concerns.

St. Louis County is soliciting public input in anticipation of reconstructing this segment of Howard Gnesen Road in approximately 2030. How might a re-constructed Howard Gnesen Road look? How can we make it safer for all users? In 2022-2023 we began these discussions as part of an initial public input and visioning process supported by a Minnesota Department of Transportation grant.

Go to <https://engage.stlouiscountymn.gov/> for the resulting Vision Plan which is serving as a guide for St. Louis County in taking the next steps to make Howard Gnesen Road a model urban to rural multimodal gateway that is attractive, safe and comfortable for all roadway users, especially the most vulnerable –people walking and biking.



Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants

What does this program do?

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, it provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes, or provides grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who can apply?

To qualify, you must:

- Be the homeowner and occupy the house
- Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere
- Have a family income within the very-low-income limit
- For grants, be age 62 or older

What is an eligible area?

Properties must be located in an eligible rural area. You can visit the USDA Income Property Eligibility website at <https://go.usa.gov/xzcdM> for complete details.

To find out more information use the QR code below to access the program website.



Rice Lake City Hall/Pavilion Rental

City Hall

Max Capacity—100

Daytime or Evening Rentals:

4 hours or less

Residential	Non-Residential
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$50 rental	\$75 rental

All day

Residential	Non-Residential
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$100 rental	\$125 rental

Funeral/Celebration of Life:

4 hours

Residential	Non-Residential
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$25 rental	\$50 rental

Wedding Receptions/Dances:

4 hours or less

Residential	Non-Residential
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$150 rental	\$200 rental

All day

Residential	Non-Residential
\$150 deposit	\$150 deposit
\$300 rental	\$400 rental

City Hall Office/Meeting Space

Capacity –5

All day

Residential	Non-Residential
\$50.00 rental	\$75.00 rental

City Park Pavilion

All day

Residential	Non-Residential
\$25 deposit	\$25 deposit
\$25 rental	\$50 rental
\$25 gate key deposit	\$25 gate key deposit

All rentals require a certificate of homeowners/rental insurance and must be presented prior to the rental or deposit will be forfeited.

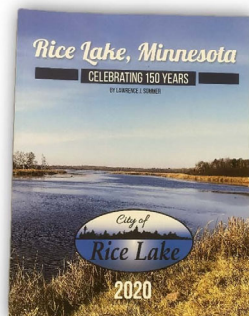
Alcohol is prohibited on all City grounds.

CITY OF RICE LAKE

Coffee Mugs
\$5.00 each



History Book
\$25.00 each



Available for purchase at City Hall. They make great gifts for any occasion! Cash, check, or debit/credit cards accepted. There is a 3% fee if paying by card.

All PROFITS go towards enhancements to Rice Lake City Park for family enjoyment.



We're a landscape and design company that believes in craftsmanship, sustainability, and doing beautiful work. Inspired by our love of nature, we specialize in custom, thoughtful designs that bring just a bit more peace and relaxation into your daily life. If you're dreaming of putting in a new garden bed, patio, retaining wall, wildflower garden, or walkway, give us a call and let's talk!



- DESIGNERS
- BUILDERS
- STEWARDS

Winter Frolic 2025

Sunday, February 2nd

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Rice Lake City Park
4135 Stockholm Road

Winter fun for all ages!

Sledding, ice skating (weather permitting), snow golf, etc.
Bring your own winter equipment, if you have it and any extras that you don't mind sharing.

*Warm up by a cozy fire with a
snack and beverage (provided)*



Don't settle for an average assisted living and memory care facility. Bring your loved one to a place they can call home. We strive to make every resident feel comfortable and safe while providing them with the assistance they need.

Call for a tour today at (218) 576-5664 or visit our website at openarmsseniorliving.com.



report

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

in your area

- City of Duluth - (218) 730-4130
- Duluth Township - (218) 525-5705
- City of Superior - (715) 394-2761
- City of Hermantown - (218) 729-3600
- City of Cloquet - (218) 879-6758
- Town of Thomson - (218) 879-9719
- City of Hibbing - (218) 262-3486
- U of M Duluth - (218) 726-7139
- St. Louis County - (218) 625-3830
- City of Rice Lake - (218) 249-0818
- MN Department of Transportation
(651) 366-3638



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Building our Future, While Preserving Our Past

Rice Lake News
4107 W Beyer Rd
Rice Lake, MN 55803

Local business, Twin Ports Aerial, gets into the Holiday Spirit!



Like us on Facebook at City of Rice Lake or visit our website at ricelakecitymn.com