

CITY OF DELL RAPIDS

SPRING 2019 CITY UPDATE

IMPORTANT NEWS, DATES AND INFORMATION FOR DELL RAPIDS RESIDENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR— THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Hopefully “third time’s a charm” is true as these words are written. Prior versions of this newsletter were made “out of date” by events taken place in Dell Rapids. Our community continues to deal with the impact of flooding. We appreciate the many people who volunteered their time and resources to provide assistance to those impacted by the flood. The work of students from Dell Rapids Public and St Mary’s is a great example to all of us. The contribution of students from Northwest Iowa Community College is greatly appreciated. These

first months of 2019 have impacted all of us in varying ways. We appreciate the many hours of work and effort by our Public Works Department staff as they have dealt with the never-ending snow. When the flood waters finally do recede, clean-up becomes our priority. Our Public Works Department will prioritize their work and we ask you to be patient as we deal with the clean-up. Thanks to all for being patient and understanding during these days.

I know it’s hard to believe but we are moving into another season of construc-

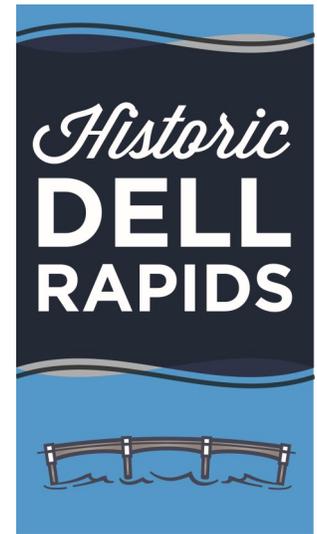
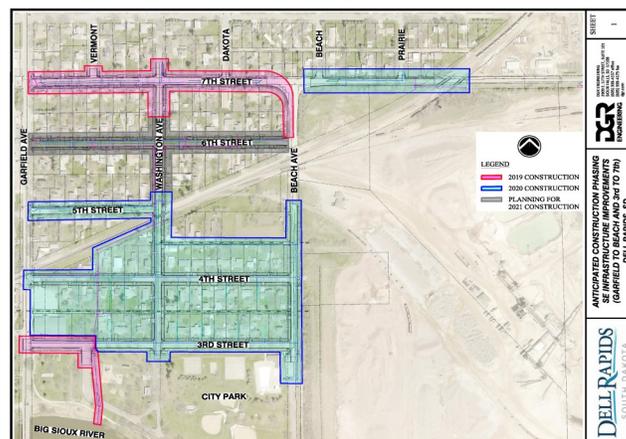
tion. Bids for the Southeast Infrastructure project were opened on March 26th. Since the low bid was significantly higher than the estimated cost, we needed to review our options in moving forward with the project. Justin provides an updated status of the project in his article. Also, on March 26th, bids for the next Sioux River Red Rock Trail extension were received and a bid was awarded. This section of the trail will take you from SD Hwy. 115 to the river dam located to the west. And sometime within the next four to seven weeks, *Continued p. 2....*

SE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT—BID AWARDED

The City awarded bids for the completion of the SE Infrastructure Project. The bids exceeded the cost estimate of \$6.4 million coming in at \$8.2 million. Based on higher than anticipated bids, the City Council made the budgetary decision to remove 6th Street between Garfield Ave and Beach Ave from the scope of the project. The City will still complete 6th Street in a future project. The City

also removed the replacement of water main on Sun-

set Drive with intent to complete this *Continued p. 2...*



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR CONTINUED...



the four blocks between State and Iowa on 10th Street will be re-paved. We are also determining a location for construction of a Dell Rapids Transit facility building, funded through a grant that provides 70% of the funding. The Dell Rapids Area Master Transportation Planning Study began on March 28th. During this process of looking at transportation issues and needs, public input will be sought.

We decided to make some changes at City Hall. Our Finance Officer, Claire Baartman, now has regular office space. Some upgrades to our IT system have been

done. For many years Big Sioux Media has been gracious in providing the web cast of City Council meetings. Very soon this service will transition to being provided by the city. Information will be made available to all. The Council Members will be moving into the digital world as we switch to an on-line agenda management system. And we just recently made available the city's new website. We continue to add necessary content. And hopefully, we might see the start of a community garden in Dell Rapids!

As your Mayor, I do appreciate the positive comments

you pass on concerning the good things that happen in our community. Very often we all forget to say "Thank You" to the people who make things happen in Dell Rapids for all of us. And on behalf of the City Council members and myself, thank you for choosing to make Dell Rapids your home and the place to raise your family. The more we understand your needs and concerns, the better the management of city activities.

PARENTS TAKE NOTE:

SWIMMING LESSONS SIGN UP WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLINE STARTING MAY 22ND AT 12:00 AM. VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SE PROJECT/RATE INCREASES CONTINUED...

project in 2019 on a new contract. The contract for the SE project was awarded to H&W Contracting in the amount of \$6.575 million. The contractor plans to start construction in late spring, working through the summer into the fall. The completion date is November of 2020.

This project is funded through loans and grants from the DENR. The City is required to increase water and sewer rates in order to payback the loans. Effective April 20th, both the water and sewer rates will in-

crease. Customers will see these new rates reflected on the bill received on May 20th for water consumed between April 20th and May 20th. The water rate will see a surcharge of \$7.20 but a decrease in the per 1,000 gallon rate for a total of \$4.00 per month for the average 5,000 gallon usage customer. This is a total 10% increase on the water bill. The sewer rate will see an additional \$7.20 surcharge per customer. This is an increase of 13% total increase on the sewer bill. The total combined increase

for an average 5,000 gallon user will be \$92.59 to \$103.80 per month.

It is important to note, those properties receiving assessments, will not have increased costs due to the higher cost of the project.

The City is excited to proceed with this important infrastructure replacement project. We look forward to with working with residents effected by the project and thank the community for your patience during construction.



FREE RUBBLE SITE DAYS

The City Council has declared 3 days as Free Rubble Site Days.

The free days are as follows; **Saturday** - May 4th from 9 AM to 4 PM , **Thursday** -

May 9th from 1 PM to 6 PM, **Saturday** - May 11th from 9 AM to 4 PM

NEW CITY WEBSITE IS ON-LINE

The City has unveiled a new City website. The goal of this new site is to serve the residents of our community with a portal to up to date accessible information. The City also sought to create a modern, eye-catching and attractive website for outside visitors researching our community. The new site includes the

ability to pay water and sewer utility bills on-line. The site is also ADA accessible for those with hearing or site impairments.

The City will also be transitioning towards an on-line minutes and agenda system that will include the streaming of City Council meetings

from the City website. The City thanks Big Sioux Media for the streaming service they have provided residents for the past 7 years. Please check out the new website at www.cityofdellrapids.org and provide us with your feedback!



LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Join us for the 2019 Summer Reading Program “A Universe of Stories” at the Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library! There will be reading challenges for babies through adults, as well as, programs and activities for all ages! Participants will spend the sum-

mer learning about outer space through various storytimes, crafts, movie days, teen and adult programs and LEGO Club! Everyone is welcome to attend the programs and activities and registration for the Summer Reading Challenge begins Monday May 13th!



PROTECT OUR BIG SIOUX RIVER

There is no arguing that one of the most important assets to the community of Dell Rapids is the Big Sioux River. This body of water is on the list of most impaired bodies of water in the country. While the majority of the water quality issues are out of our local control, there are a few small things we can do as residents to not contribute to the pollution of the river.



Common home landscape management practices can significantly contribute pollution. One yard may not make a difference but the cumulative effect of all the lawns can add up to a large impact. Proper pesticide and

herbicide application is important. Consider using non-toxic, substitutes whenever possible, even hand pulling and digging out weeds. Fertilizer application is also a common problem as excess amounts can flow off the land, into storm sewers making their way to the river. Avoid overuse of fertilizers and avoid sprinkling product onto side-

walks, driveways or streets. If you hire these services, make sure to select a contractor that has trained technicians. Also attempt not to apply a lawn when rain is likely to avoid these run-off issues. Another small gesture residents can do to protect the health of our river is to pick up pet waste. Pet waste can cause an assortment of environmental issue if it enters the Big Sioux. It carries a variety of bacteria, viruses and parasites that can make the river unsafe. The City provides pet waste bags along the trail in our parks. Please be a responsible pet owner and pick up your pet’s waste to keep our City and river clean.

Upcoming Summer Community Events:

Saturday May 27th: American Legion Hosted Memorial Day Parade

June 7th & 8th: Cootie Days in the City Park

June 6th, 7th and 8th: City –Wide Rummage Sale

June 21st-23rd: Quarry Days. Parade and Park Events

Saturday July 20th: Downtown Wine and Wander

DELL RAPIDS

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SIGN UP FOR CITY TEXT
MESSAGE ALERTS: TEXT "DELLS"
TO 605-206-2927

- ALERTS MAY INCLUDE SNOW EMERGENCIES, MOSQUITO SPRAYING, HYDRANT FLUSHING AND OTHER IMPORTANT PUBLIC INFORMATION

10TH STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

The City Council budgeted and planned for the re-surfacing of 10th Street in 2019. The City Council determined, based on traffic counts and the existing surface conditions that re-surfacing 10th Street was a priority in 2019. The City will be removing the existing asphalt surface and replacing with a 3 inch asphalt lift. This project will occur between State and Iowa Avenue. The contractor is scheduled to start the project in the spring of 2019. 10th Street will be closed to traffic during construction and restricted to resident access. All other streets where pavement has fallen apart due to frost will be repaired once those areas dry out and asphalt plants open for the season.

SPRING RESIDENT REMINDERS

- Hydrant Flushing:** The City will be flushing hydrants across the City the month of May and April. This activity tends to stir sediment within the water lines. Please check your water prior to doing laundry or other cleaning related tasks.
- Sump Pumps:** The City requests that property owners make certain that sump pumps are plumbed outside of their homes. Plumbing a sump pump into a floor drain is a violation of City Ordinance. This is important because the City doesn't want to treat ground water at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Building Permits Required:** If you are planning a summer improvement to your home or property, please remember that a building permit is required. The City follows the International Building Code. Please contact City Building Inspector, Ben Gruis prior to proceeding with your project.
- Grass and Weed Maintenance:** Be a good neighbor! All lawns must be kept below 8" in height and all noxious weeds need to be controlled.
- The Rubble Site Hours** (weather permitting) are every Tuesday and Thursday from 1PM to 6 PM and every Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

SIoux RIVER RED ROCK TRAIL— DAM SITE EXTENSION

The City, in partnership with the Sioux River Red Rock Trail committee, received a \$100,000 grant from the Game Fish and Parks, Recreation Trails Program. The City has awarded the project for construction in the summer of 2019. The trail will extend off of Hwy 115, 2,000 feet into the historic dam site. This is undeveloped site that will hug the Big Sioux River and include a pedestrian bridge that crosses Rocky Run Creek. This new trail extension, coupled with the completion of the Hwy 115 pedestrian paths and the extension to the Dells Overlook, will provide the community with many new areas to explore. The City appreciates the work the SRRT committee has done towards promoting and raising funds for the trail system in Dell Rapids. The City will be working with the committee to apply for funding to improve pedestrian access from 4th Street north to 15th Street along Old 77.



THE SRRT DAM SITE EXTENSION WILL OCCUR IN 2019

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS OF EVERY MONTH AT DELL RAPIDS CITY HALL. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.