

Plowing Through Winter



The City provides snow and ice removal from City streets keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. Sartell street maintenance crews clear 94 miles of city streets along with 93 cul-de-sacs. Crews start with clearing the high volume roadways which

connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency, fire, police and medical services and continue until all streets are clear.

How quickly must snow be removed from residential sidewalks?

City ordinance requires all sidewalks to be cleared of snow and ice within 12 hours after the cessation of precipitation. The purpose of this Ordinance is to keep the sidewalks available for public use in the winter and ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially children walking to and from school or the bus stop. Residents are also asked to assist emergency officials and postal carriers by removing snow around fire hydrants and mailboxes.

Is it appropriate to pass a City snow plow while driving?

It is always safest to yield to a snow plow and give snow plow drivers plenty of room to do their jobs. They travel at lower-than-posted speeds, but they will make the road safer for you to travel on. Never drive into a snow cloud created by a plow and always allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snow plow. A snow plow weighs 17 times more than a passenger vehicle and in a crash, passengers in a motor vehicle are almost always injured.

What can I teach my children about snow plow safety?

Teach them that it is extremely difficult for snow plow drivers to see children, and that they should move away from the street when a snow plow is approaching. Never allow them to build snow forts or sledding mounds within 20 feet of the street.

Who should I contact if I have a question or concern about snow removal?

If you have questions or concerns about snow removal, call the City's Public Works Department at 320-258-7304 or 320-258-7339.

Christmas Tree Drop Off Dates

The Sartell Compost Site will be open for Christmas tree drop off on Saturday, January 7th and 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a free service for Sartell residents, however, a food shelf donation is requested to help stock the local area foodshelves after the holidays.

Last year Sartell residents helped raise 792 pounds of food for the local foodshelf. If you would like information on how to donate to the St. Cloud Area Foodshelf, please contact them directly at 320-229-4560.

Firefighters Wanted

If you are looking to get involved in the community with a worthy organization, work with some good people and have some fun, please consider taking a look at the Sartell Fire Department. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. For more information see http://www.sartellmn.com/Fire%20Department/department_news.htm.

Adopt a Hydrant

Did you know there are approximately 1,100 fire hydrants in the City of Sartell? The City's network of fire hydrants is designed to provide extinguishing capabilities to every household in Sartell within minutes of the Fire Department's arrival on-scene.



However, in winter months, an accumulation of snow and ice around fire hydrants can impede a firefighter's ability to quickly locate and access a hydrant. For this reason, the Fire Department relies on residents and businesses to assist in clearing snow around fire hydrants throughout the City.

On average, for every minute a fire burns, it doubles in size. You can help save precious time by making sure that firefighters can obtain quick and easy access to a hydrant should they need to respond to a fire emergency in your neighborhood.

Adopt a hydrant in your area today, and each time the snow flies...grab a shovel and dig it out! Your neighbors thank you!

Sartell City Council News...

Following are a few highlights of some of the actions taken by the Sartell City Council Recently. Complete minutes as well as videos of Council meetings are available on our website at www.sartellmn.com.

- Appointed Dennis Molitor to fill the temporary Council vacancy during Councilmember David Peterson's military deployment.
- Approved the development of Grandview South consisting of approximately 75 units of luxury apartments, and Burl Oaks, a 38 unit townhome development - both located in the Roberts Road/Heritage Drive corridor.
- Appointed four new firefighters to fill vacancies created by retiring City Firefighters.
- The new east/west roadway and trail (Central Blvd) by Pine Ridge Golf Club and Pinecone Central Park is now complete, as is the first phase of the new 50th Avenue and 23rd Street South.

Sartell NEWSLETTER

December 2011/January 2012 BIMONTHLY UPDATE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SARTELL

Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Rd N, PO Box 140, Sartell, MN 56377 PH: 320-253-2171 FX: 320-253-3337

WEB: WWW.SARTELLMN.COM



Sartell's Volunteer Spotlight: Sartell Rotary Club



Sartell Rotary Club began just six years ago and has accomplished so much in that short time we wanted to recognize and thank them for their service! Their work is numerous and includes many volunteer hours cleaning along roads, providing and installing benches and garbage receptacles along the City trail at the bus stops on Pinecone Road, landscaping at the Police Department building, providing horseshoe courts at Val Smith Park, and their biggest project to date - their work at Rotary Riverside Park.

In 2009, the club realized they needed a large community project, so when the idea to develop this city park along the Mississippi River was presented to them, they were instantly interested. According to Randy Skarphol with the Sartell Rotary Club, the light bulb went off when they visited the park as ideas immediately started flowing on what they could do. They just knew that this would be

a great place for a fishing pier. They officially adopted the park and the City named it Rotary Riverside Park. The following spring they had fundraised enough to install a handicap accessible fishing pier, along with a parking lot and trail at the lower area nearer the river. With many generous donations from businesses and individuals as well as grants, this last summer they installed benches, garbage receptacles, picnic tables and a couple of bike racks. Additionally, they worked with Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to add rain gardens and natural vegetation along the river bank to help with erosion and water quality. SWCD covered 75% of the cost of the rain gardens and natural vegetation. The club's future plans for the park include an additional parking lot, trails, picnic tables, grills, fire pits, playground and perhaps a small amphitheater. In addition to all of these amenities, making sure that views of the river are maintained is a top priority. Randy shared that what has helped the most is that all of the club members have been fully supportive and rolling in the same direction and the tremendous positive comments from residents that they receive.

Sartell Rotary Club's Mission Statement reads: "Our vision for this club is to become a leader in our own community, to inspire concepts of service which will help in shaping the Sartell area. We will strive to provide good people the opportunity to do good works in our own back yards and around the world."

They definitely are fulfilling that mission! To learn more about how you can help develop Rotary Riverside Park visit www.sartellrotary.org and please consider donating to the park fund. One hundred percent of the funds raised go back into the park.

Advertisement Space Available: For information about inexpensive advertising opportunities in this bimonthly newsletter publication and on the digital community message board sign on Pinecone Road South, visit www.sartellmn.com or call Sartell City Hall at 320-253-2171.

Watch the city council meetings live the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. on Charter Cable Channel 19. Re-broadcasts are aired the following Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. You can also view these meetings anytime on our website at www.sartellmn.com.

Rental Housing Requirements in the City of Sartell

With the tough housing market people are having a hard time selling their homes and some have elected to rent their existing homes in the hopes of selling them when the market turns around. The City of Sartell has a rental ordinance in place to help regulate rental homes and apartments inside of the city limits. As part of the ordinance, all rental properties must obtain a rental license by contacting City Hall. The fee for the rental license is \$102 for the first unit and \$51 for each additional unit and is valid through that calendar year. The fee can be lowered by participating in the Sartell Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

The Sartell Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is a three-phase certification program for rental properties of all sizes, including single family rental homes. This program is known to be effective in reducing criminal activity in rental properties, by implementing a unique three-phase approach that ensures resident friendly techniques will be applied to maintain crime prevention goals.

Additional information on the rental ordinance can be found on the City's website at www.sartellmn.com/city_govt_code.htm.

Cross Country Ski Trails



This year why not take advantage of Sartell's Cross Country Ski Trails. Located at Pine Ridge Golf Course on Pinecone Road North, cross country skiers can enjoy a great trail that leads around the property. These trails will be open as Mother Nature allows and will be groomed throughout the winter season.

Winter Parking Rules

The Sartell Police Department would like to remind everyone that city ordinance prohibits parking on any city street, alley or thoroughfare between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. during the months of November, December, January, February and March. This ordinance is in effect regardless of the amount of snow that may or may not be on the ground during those months. Any vehicles parked or left in violation of the ordinance may be ticketed and towed, with the ensuing expense to be paid by the vehicle's owner. "We would ask that homeowners and renters within the city inform guests and family members that may be staying or visiting at your home about the winter parking rules", Chief Jim Hughes said. Reminders are also put on the city's electronic bulletin boards, website, new resident packets and signs are posted at the entrances to the city limits. The fine for violating the ordinance is \$25.00, with a \$5.00 increase if not paid within 7 days.

Skating Rink Hours



The Sartell skating rink located at Val Smith Park will be open as long throughout the season as Mother Nature allows. The hours will be 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on school days and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on non-school days. Hours at Pinecone Regional Park outside the Bernick's Arena are 7-9 p.m. on school days and 2-9 p.m. on non-school days.

To see when both rinks will be open for the season, please check out our website at www.sartellmn.com.

The pleasure skating rink that was located in the parking lot of the Pine Ridge Golf Course last year has been moved to Central Park just north of Pine Ridge Golf Course on Pinecone Central Blvd. This is an unattended ice rink but the city does provide an unheated shelter to skaters.



Day of Reckoning: "Proposed Property Tax Statements" for 2012 reveal impacts of state tax policy changes

Minnesota counties have been busy preparing and mailing millions of Proposed Property Tax Statements, formerly known as Truth-in-Taxation statements, to Minnesota property owners across the state. As property tax payers in the City of Sartell sit down to review their truth-in-taxation statement, the results of a solution to balance the state's budget woes and end the government shutdown this past summer becomes more apparent. The solution included a property tax change that received very little public discussion and which initially sounded pretty painless. The Bill Summary provided by the MN House Research Department described the change as follows: "Converts the market value homestead credit from a state-paid credit to a homestead market value exclusion that provides substantially the same benefit to homestead property as the credit."

Unfortunately, once the dust settled and actual impacts were analyzed, it's clear that this change results in widespread increases in property tax bills, that it shifts the burden more heavily on certain property types – most notably business, industry, apartments and agricultural property, and that Greater Minnesota businesses are impacted more than twice as much as their metropolitan counterparts. This outcome comes exclusively from action taken by the State legislature and Governor last summer – and not by local taxing jurisdictions, including the City of Sartell.

According to analysis conducted by the MN House Research Department, applying this State policy change made in August 2011 to taxes payable in 2011 based on actual levies approved by local taxing jurisdictions back in November and December 2010 would result in the following:

- Statewide, property taxes would be higher by \$272 million or 3.4% (5.3% in greater MN and 2.3% in the twin cities metro).
- On a statewide average basis, property tax changes vary by property type from 2.5% (on commercial-industrial property) to +6.6% on agricultural property. The overall total percent increase for property in Sartell is 4.5% (Stearns County) and 5.1% (Benton County).
- Tax burden increases on hypothetical properties in Sartell to exclusively fund this \$272 million reduction by the State of MN:
 - \$132,600 taxable market value home = +\$31 or 2.1%
 - \$397,600 taxable market value home = +\$302 or 5.9%
 - \$300,000 taxable market value apartment = +\$288 or 6%
 - \$1,000,000 taxable market value business = +\$1,480 or 4.4%

The City of Sartell is proposing a 2012 budget that is more than 3% lower than our original 2011 budget. Over the past 10 years, the City of Sartell literally absorbed hundreds of thousands of dollars in State aid cuts. In 2001, the city received \$617,270 of Local Government Aid (LGA) which accounted for 26.2% of our general fund budget revenues. In 2011, the city will receive less than \$4,000 and LGA now accounts for less than 1% of our general fund budget revenues. As such, even with a reduced general fund budget, our proposed levy will increase about \$150,000 specifically to fund street repairs we needed to undertake in 2011 on some roads that simply could not be delayed any further. We planned to make that levy increase with zero impact on existing taxpayers since we believed our new tax base growth from development activity in the southern portion of the City would easily cover that levy increase. However, the impacts of the changes made at the State level are resulting in a tax rate increase and a shift in tax burdens so that some property owners will still see relatively flat City tax amounts, while others (e.g. business, industry, and apartments) will see increases.

The City of Sartell remains committed to providing necessary municipal services in the most cost effective and efficient manner possible, and we believe our proposed 2012 budget and levy accomplishes that and we will remain with the lowest City tax rate in the area. And, you should expect to hear more discussion of the impacts of the 2011 State tax policy and law changes as the legislature convenes again in 2012.

Wedgewood Condominiums in Sartell

2- Bedrooms starting at \$59,999*
(starting at 1034 sq. ft.)

&

1- Bedrooms starting at \$49,999*
(starting at 800 sq. ft.)

**Contract for Deed (CAD) financing available to those who qualify*

Condo Amenities:
Heat • New roofs, siding & windows • Water, sewer & refuse
Fully appliances kitchen • Washer/dryer in each unit
Secure tuck garage/storage • Spacious floor plans • Large closets • Patio or balcony

Property Amenities:
Private courtyard • Heated swimming pool • Gas grills/patio sets
Professional management with onsite resident manager • Snow removal & grounds maintenance • Superb location within walking distance of schools, shopping, golf, workout facilities • On bus line

Contact Martha at 320-290-3126

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EXECUTIVE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SOLUTIONS, INC.
www.hollandandfrank.com

 Dennis J. Holland

 Gregory J. Frank

131 6th Ave S. Suite 150, Waite Park, MN 56387
Ph: 320.253.2730 / Toll: 800.321.2673
Fax: 320.253.5715
Email: dennis@hollandandfrank.com / greg@hollandandfrank.com

After Hour Emergencies

Sartell City Hall is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have an after hours city emergency that needs immediate attention, please call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 and the appropriate personnel will be dispatched.

Receive E-mail Updates

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts with the City of Sartell. We will send you e-mails on: Public Safety Alerts, upcoming road construction, plowing issues and other important city information. To sign up, just visit our homepage at www.sartellmn.com and click in the sign up area. It's easy and convenient!