

MORTON AREA NEWSLETTER

December, 2017

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer

Like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfMorton/>

Join Us in Our Mission to REMEMBER ♦ HONOR ♦ TEACH



Join us on

December 16, 2017

NATIONAL WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

MORTON CITY PARK BY THE

VETERANS' MEMORIAL

12:00 NOON

EVERYONE WELCOME!



WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

Attention Veterans!

Lee Stock of
Renville County Veterans' Services is at
Morton City Hall
on the
2nd Tuesday of each month
(or other dates if necessary)
to assist you with any of your veteran
service needs.

Please contact Lee to schedule an
appointment

Notice

Renville County WIC will no longer have an outreach site in Morton. Effective October 4, 2017, those who picked up in Morton can pick up their benefits either in the Olivia office every Wednesday from 1:30-3 pm or at the new Fairfax site on the 1st Wednesday of January, April, July, and October from 9:30-11:30. The Fairfax site will begin in January 3, 2018 at the Fairfax City Hall. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call WIC staff at 320-523-3762.

Olivia Site: Renville County Public Health Office, 105 S. 5th St, Suite 119H (Government Services Center, lower level), Olivia, MN

Fairfax Site: Fairfax City Hall, 18 1st St SE, Fairfax, MN

Thank you so much to the Morton community for your help in supporting improved nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children!

Renville County WIC Staff

ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS
MEETS AT
MORTON CITY HALL
EACH MONDAY
EVENING,
BEGINNING AT
7:00 P.M.

CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRANSIT

The Central Community Transit serves all of Renville County

Monday . Friday and all your Transportation needs.

For more information call:
Central Community Transit at:
320-523-3589 or 1-800-450-7964



Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution

The 3rd Tuesday of the month
at the National Guard Armory in Red-
wood Falls

Registration begins at 4:00

Distribution runs from 4:30-6:00
a \$20 cash donation gets you a share
bring 2 laundry baskets for your food
contact rubysredwoodfalls@gmail.com
for information especially those who
want to volunteer.

RENVILLE COUNTY FOOD SHELF

Any resident of Renville County may
visit the

Renville County Food Shelf located on
Main Street in downtown Olivia.*

Hours of Operation

Monday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday 5:00 – 7 p.m.

Friday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Located at 108 S. 9th Street, Olivia, MN
56277

Telephone: 320-523-5339

e-mail: rcfoodshelf@gmail.com

* Bring a current utility bill or other document that has your name and street address.

The Second Harvest Heartland guideline is 25 lbs . of food per person once a month or twelve times a year.

If you are doing home projects
and improvements, please
check with city hall to be sure
you are complying with local
requirements.

The official newspaper for the City of Morton is the Renville County Register. All notices and publications as required by law are printed in that paper and as an additional means of providing public information, such notices will be printed in this newsletter when possible. All other publications and postings are done as a courtesy and means of informing residents of activities.

CIVIL DEFENSE

SIREN TESTING

Civil Defense sirens are tested each month on the first Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

BONE BUILDERS

Our group meets on Tuesday & Friday at 8:45 a.m. at the Senior Center.

Everyone has a great time, sharing news, joking & laughing. Join us!

Commercial Tailor

- ⇒ Men's and women's alterations
 - ⇒ Mending
 - ⇒ Darning socks and
 - ⇒ Sweater repairs
- ⇒ Work on some ladies gowns.

Additional charge on rush orders.

Call Lin at 530 1335.

40 years of experience.



Church Service Schedule

Zion Lutheran

9:00 a.m. Sundays

Bible Study & Sunday school following services

St. John's Catholic

Mass at 8:00 a.m. Sundays

CHURCH SERVICES ARE AIRED ON
MEDIACOM CUSTOMERS'
CHANNEL 8

Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 and 1:00

Newsletter/Local Access

Information

If you have items you wish to have in the newsletter or posted on the access channel, please drop them off at city hall and we will be happy to include them (at no charge!)

Council Meetings

Next

Regular City Council Meeting:

Wednesday,

January 10, 2018

starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are aired live on Media-com's local access channel and again the day following the meeting at noon.

Meetings are live on facebook as well

If you are experiencing issues with the broadcast, please contact city hall so improvements and changes can be made.

FRANKLIN WELLNESS CENTER

OPEN 24/7 FITNESS CENTER

ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS WIT

- ⇒ DIABETES,
- ⇒ HYPERTENSION ,
- ⇒ ANXIETY,
- ⇒ HIGH CHOLESTEROL,
- ⇒ BALANCE PROBLEMS
- ⇒ OR DEPRESSION?

⇒

THE CENTER CAN HELP SET YOU UP WITH A PLAN TO WORK ON THESE PROBLEMS.....

CALL: 507-430-2191

ASK FOR CONNIE.

GARBAGE DAY IS

EACH TUESDAY MORNING

PLEASE HAVE CONTAINERS AT THE CURB NO LATER THAN

7:00 A.M.

PLEASE ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE ROOM FOR THE ARM OF THE TRUCK TO ATTACH TO YOUR CONTAINER. ALL GARBAGE MUST IN THE CONTAINER AND THE CONTAINER MUST BE ACCESSIBLE.

Mobile Recycling Unit

The mobile recycling unit has moved FROM the lot across from the old school TO the back of the parking lot next to River Valley Arms & Ammo

As a reminder, residents that have the curbside service available to them are encouraged to use it.

UPCOMING

CURBSIDE RECYCLING DATES:

Have your container at the location of your garbage pick up by 6:00 a.m.

December 27

(one day late due to the holiday)

January 9 & 23



News from the Hairstop... Sarah Madsen

I'd like to start off by saying a BIG Thank you to JoAnn Jacobson for putting up with me for the past 17 years. I couldn't have made it without her help and support.

Starting this Spring (2018) I will be transitioning to a mobile salon trailer. I will still be serving all of my Morton customers from it, in Morton. The exact location will be determined at a later date. Tuesday night haircuts will still be held in Morton. I plan

to divide the rest of my work week between Franklin-Morton-Redwood as well as other area towns, mostly ones who do not have hairstylists in them. I will have the ability to go house-to-house and city-to-town. I am able to do all my regular hair and nail services from the trailer. I will continue to provide updates in the newsletters.

JoAnn Jacobson will continue to operate the Hairstop of Morton and will continue on with business as usual

Mobile Hair Services

~ *Hair Traveler* ~

Sarah Madsen

Owner

507-430-2259

Facebook page: **Mobile Hair-Hair Traveler**

Email: **madsen25@yahoo.com**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN City of Morton DRINKING WATER

Recent drinking water quality monitoring conducted by the City of Morton *has found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings in the City of Morton.* Although the primary sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water.

The City of Morton is concerned about the health of their residents because *lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be re-released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.*

In August of 2017 the City of Morton participated in the lead/copper testing as required by the MN Dept. of Health. The samples were collected in accordance with the guidelines and submitted for testing. On August 30 we received notice that there was one location that had elevated lead levels. The occupant of this location was contacted immediately with instructions for use. In the past, the samples have been submitted and test results have met the guidelines. The level at this location was significantly higher this time which resulted in overall test results not meeting the criteria. The reason for the levels being exceeded is due to plumbing changes since the last testing. The City of Morton will continue to collect samples and test from these locations and work in cooperation with the Department of Health.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure To Lead In Your Water:

Run your water to flush out lead. Run water for 30 - 60 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

Look for alternative drinking water sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.

Test your water for lead. Call us at 507-697-6912 to find out how to get your water tested for lead.

Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

Identify if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.

There are several action that the City of Morton are taking to address this lead in drinking water concern. The City of Morton will collect samples on a regular basis, provide educational information to residents and will cooperate with the Department of Health to continue to provide safe drinking water for our residents.

Call Morton City Hall at 507-697-6912 or visit the City of Morton Web site at www.mortonmn.com to find out how to get your water tested for lead or for more information on steps the City of Morton is taking to address the lead action level exceedance. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or contact your health care provider.

This notice is brought to you by the City of Morton State Water System ID#1650010. Date 11/21/2017

Other Options for Reducing Lead

Some treatment devices can reduce the amount of lead in your drinking water. Reverse-osmosis and distillation units can be used for that purpose. Since these devices also demineralize water, they should be installed only at the faucet.

They can be expensive and must be regularly maintained to work well. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for operation and maintenance to ensure that the treatment equipment works correctly.

Check the product literature to be sure it has been certified for lead removal by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). For more information, visit the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.org>.

What Are We Doing about the Problem?

We are taking a number of steps to deal with the lead problem. They include:

- checking the water sources in the system for the presence of lead.
- implementing corrosion control strategies to make the water less likely to absorb lead from materials in the plumbing system.
- exploring other sources, such as an alternative source of water.

How Can I Tell if The Water in My Home Has Too Much Lead?

Many laboratories can test your water to see if there is a lead problem. Fees will vary between labs. Check the internet for "Laboratories-Testing."

For More Information

If you have questions about lead and drinking water, call us at:

507-697-6912

Or visit our website at:

www.mortonmn.com

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.

This notice is being sent to you by

CITY OF Morton
PWSID #1650010

Date Distributed 12-13-2017



Division of Environmental Health
P. O. Box 64975
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/water>

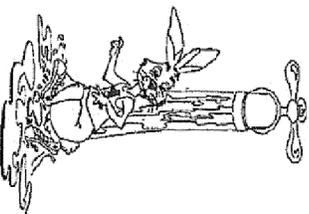
To request this document in another format,
call 651-201-4700; TTY 651-201-5797

Lead Public Education Brochure
January 2008

Important Information

About Lead In Your Drinking Water

Let it run....



....and get the lead out!

CITY OF MORTON

found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, and young children.

Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources.

It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body.

The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities.

Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Lead is rarely found in natural sources of water such as rivers and lakes or underground aquifers.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal, used in many consumer products. It can be found in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, some types of pottery, pewter and crystal, and water.

Drinking water is not our only source of lead exposure, but it can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure.

Usually, lead gets into your water after it leaves the treatment plant. This usually happens through the corrosion of materials containing lead in household plumbing.

The most likely sources of lead in your household water are lead pipes, lead solder on copper pipes, brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," or lead service lines connecting the water main to the inside plumbing.

Lead pipes are no longer installed for service lines or in household plumbing, and lead solder has been outlawed in Minnesota since 1985.

The amount of lead allowed in brass fixtures has also been limited, but can still contribute some lead to drinking water. Note that many faucets are made of brass even if they do not have a "brass" color.

Even with these restrictions in place, some homes, especially older homes, may still have significant amounts of lead in their plumbing systems.

Lead dissolves continuously into the water. Water that stands idle in pipes for long periods of time may have higher concentrations of lead than water that passes through without stopping.

Reducing Exposure to Lead in Water

Don't drink or cook with water that has been in your plumbing for more than six hours - overnight, for example, or while you were at work.

You can clear the water out of your pipes by letting the cold water faucet run until you can feel the water get colder. This will usually take from 30 to 60 seconds. This should be done with each faucet before water is drawn for drinking or cooking. Flushing a toilet, for example, will not completely clear water from pipes going to the bathroom sink.

Other household water uses will also help clear standing water from your home's plumbing. For example, you may want to establish a routine of doing household tasks that use water - such as showering, or running the dishwasher - first thing in the morning before using water for drinking or cooking. Keep in mind that you'll still need to flush individual faucets for a short time before using them for drinking water.

In addition, because hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water, water from the hot water tap should not be used for drinking or cooking. Water needed for these purposes should be drawn from the cold tap and then heated.

Lead in water can be a special problem for infants whose diets may be mostly liquids, such as baby formulas or concentrated juices mixed with water.

Smaller bodies can absorb lead more rapidly than bigger ones, so amounts of lead that won't hurt an adult can be very harmful to a child. It is especially important not to use hot water for making baby formula.

Boiling the water does not reduce lead levels and may actually increase them.

Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.

The mission of the Morton Area Chamber is to foster a strong, inviting community through supporting and attracting businesses, organizations and tourism.

The vision of the Morton Area Chamber is to be the leading resource that businesses and organizations partner with to create a healthy and vibrant community.

411 N Park Dr (Museum)

507-697-1884

mortonareachamber@gmail.com

Morton Area Chamber and Tourism Secretary Report from Dec 6, 2017

1. Called meeting to order at 12:05 at Cousins Saloon. Present : Bonnie, Nicole, Joseph, Sarah. Absent : Heather and Darin
2. Agenda – Sarah motion to approve, Joseph 2nd, approved
3. Secretary Report – Joseph motion to approve, Sarah 2nd, approved
4. Treasurer Report – Sarah motion to approve, Joseph 2nd, approved
 - a. We need to get a sign to Joanie to put up during \$2 meals so the people eating are aware of the donation from the Chamber. Perhaps it could also be announced verbally.
 - b. We donated \$84 to Senior Citizens of Morton for the November \$2 meals
 - c. Send out invoices for 2018 memberships now
5. We have received one reimbursement of the three invoices submitted for the EMT Grant; and have received the last invoice for the work done by VantagePoint Marketing. That will be invoiced to the Grant people by the end of Dec.
6. Beneath the Village Wreath seemed to be a success. There were a lot of vendors and decent foot traffic altho people didn't seem to be buying. Ideas for next year were discussed.
 - a. Prize winners:

Public Choice for Cookie Decorating - Maggie Ahrens	Papa John Pizza Coupon
Public Choice for Ornament Decorating - Blake Weilage	Papa John Pizza Coupon
Adult Ornament Contest Winner - Blake Weilage	BP Pizza Coupon / \$20 Chamber Bucks
Child Ornament Contest Winner - Macy Kamolz	BP Pizza Coupon / \$20 Chamber Bucks
Adult Cookie Contest Winner – Lyndsay Serbus	Papa John Pizza / \$20 Chamber Bucks
Door Prize Winner - Dana Nelson	\$100 Chamber Bucks
7. Spring Garden Party is set for April 21, 2018 10-2 in the City Park. Discussion on details.
8. Nicole will provide a blurb on the Morton Chamber activities for the Franklin and Morton Newsletters. Bonnie will continue to supply the Chamber Secretary notes to the Morton Newsletter.
9. Discussion on the Morton Citizen of the Year award for 2018.
10. We're looking for 1 or 2 new board members to round out the Chamber Board
11. Discussion on benefits of being a Chamber Member. Possibly move our meetings from Cousins Saloon to get to see other places of business as Cousins is not currently a Chamber member.
12. Bonnie will get the list of First Dollar of Profit recipient together and send to Board Members.
13. Adjourned at 1:17

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Green, Secretary



"The Oldest Story in North America"

220 West Second Street – P.O. Box 127 – Morton, MN 56270-0127 Phone: (507) 697-6912 Fax: (507) 697-6118
E-Mail: mortoncityhall@mchsi.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer

TDD/TTY: 651-602-7830

AMENDMENTS TO THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8:: NONE

The following are the NOTES from the most recent council meeting (December 13)

These NOTES have not been approved by the council as of this publication.

Any changes will be noted in the next newsletter.

DECEMBER 13, 2017:

Regular meeting called to order by Mayor Farmer with all members present. Others present: Doug Best, Ken Kuel, Bob Baune, Tim Nesburg, Paul Neudecker, JoAnn Jacobson, Judy Koerner, Jim Nesburg, Aaron Walton (City Attorney) Harry Carruth, Ben Mammen, Greg Deinken, Tyler Serbus, Tony Mages, Larry Serbus (Norfolk Township), Steve Anderson, Bob Steinbeisser, Dick Sindelir & Gary Simondet (Beaver Falls Township), Bob Tretbar, Bill Rademacher, Don Carbert, Tom Robinson (Birch Coulee Township), Matt Robinson, Ryan Becklund, John Gallery, Dick Rebstock.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Presenters: Renville County Sheriff's Department – Doug Best

Community Pride: Wreaths Across America

Park & Recreation: KMS Ride 2018

Fire: Approve ordering SCBA tanks

Management: Solar Credits

PRESENTERS: Doug Best (Renville County Sheriff's Department) presented the monthly summary report for the month of November 2017. There were no comments, questions or concerns.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion by Walker and second by Henning to approve the secretary's report as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Walker and second by Jacobson to approve as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

WATER DRAINAGE:

Pipe Installed: The pipe and the electrical lines have been buried and continue to be working.

Tiling Update: The Gopher One Call has been placed, locates are done and the tiling should be done on Thursday.

Surveying Update: Surveyors should be finishing soon. Once a draft is completed the engineer will be setting up a time to review the findings and determine a plan and direction for proceeding.

EDA RECOMMENDATIONS: Motion by Prescott to accept the recommendation of the Morton EDA for the sale of Cousin's Saloon to Judy Sindelir and to approve the licensing as required. Second by Jacobson. Motion carried.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING-Cousin's Saloon: The original term on the TIF for the saloon was five years. Since the first owner did not complete the five year term, it began a new term with Cousins. Cousins have been in operation for two years. Discussion on carry over of remaining time or starting of a new term. Motion by Prescott and second by Henning to credit Robert Prescott (Cousin's) for the two years they were in operation and apply the three years as a new term for Judy Sindelir. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE: A letter was sent to Jason Gewerth regarding the use of the recently acquired property next to his residence. A building permit application was submitted stating the following: (1) Took out the garage door and walk out door (2) Put one big door in garage 14'x7' (3) On the house took out windows, put in 7'x6' garage door. For now the house is being used for storage. In Spring a walk in door will be put on the side of the garage. Back door and deck of the house will be removed. Council was advised that the use does not meet the ordinance. Jorey stated that the long term plan is to remove the house and build a new garage. Motion by Prescott and second by Walker to approve the permit as presented. Motion carried.

REASSIGNMENT OF PARCEL ID: Motion by Walker and second by Jacobson to pass resolution #06-2017 reassigning property tax parcel identification numbers for Lot 10 and Lot 20 of Block 9. Motion carried.

FORMER B. ORIGINAL BUILDING UPDATE: A check was received from the League of MN Cities for an insurance claim on the roof due to weather damage. The check will cover the cost of materials and Joseph Evan will be doing the labor portion of the project in the Spring.

COMMUNITY PRIDE:

INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE: Looking for 4-5 volunteers to plan the July 4 celebration. We have one volunteer so far (THANK YOU). Anyone interested should contact city hall before January 15.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Ceremony at the park at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 16h.

PROVIDING MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

WATER/SEWER: Education materials are being distributed regarding lead in our water. Questions, please contact city hall.

SANITATION: The final pick up date for Waste Management will be December 27. The current containers for garbage only will be collected and new containers will be delivered.

PARK & RECREATION: The KMS Ride is planning to have Morton as the start and end location for the ride. A meeting will be held in January to discuss details. More information to come. The Sheriff's office will work with us to provide service as needed.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

POLICE: No issues

FIRE:

Volunteer Earnings: Motion by Jacobson and second by Walker to approve the earnings as presented with any additional calls being added. Motion carried.

SCBA Tanks: Motion by Prescott and second by Walker to approve placing an order for 15 SCBA tanks as per proposal with a cost of \$12075.00. Motion carried.

MANAGEMENT:

2017 IN REVIEW AND GOALS: No council input

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION TRAINING: Jorey and Lacey are now registered and plan to complete the training by the end of the week.

RESOLUTION REGARDING POLLING PLACE: Motion by Henning and second by Jacobson to pass resolution #07-2017 designation the polling place for elections as 220 West Second Street (City Hall). Motion carried.

MAYOR/COUNCIL EARNINGS: Motion by Prescott and second by Walker to approve mayor/council earnings for 2017. Motion carried.

SOLAR CREDITS: The solar agreement the council passed last year will begin the billing and credit process effective November 1, 2017.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING 7:00 P.M.: Hearing opened at 7:00 p.m. The draft included a 9.49% increase in the levy. The council's intent at that time was to reduce that increase by at least half. The levy was the same for 2010-11 and the same for 2012-2015. The levy dropped last year. Council agreed that 9.49% is too much of an increase and agreed that an increase is needed. Review of water rates: No increase is anticipated. Sewer rates will increase approximately eight cents per gallon. Review of the contracts that the city has in place and the costs associated with them. The hearing will remain open for additional input and discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIRE HALL 7:30 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is for informational purposes only and is not required by statute. The purpose is to review and discuss construction and financing of a fire hall in the City of Morton. Mayor Farmer identified the rules that will be followed.

Review of the events that have taken place over the years regarding plans for a fire hall. A petition was received earlier in the day with 44 signatures. The petition states the following: Petition to STOP the planning and development of a new fire hall. The following citizens of Morton, petition the Morton City Council to STOP the planning and development for the construction and financing of a new fire hall. The residents of Morton spoke in 2014 with a referendum that failed. Please honor that decision. Our population continues to decline and many of the residents are living on a very limited income. Local taxes continue to rise, causing additional burden for the residents. Please discontinue the planning and development for a new fire hall facility and explore other more affordable options to address the safety issues identified. The council also received an email from Gary Cornwell stating he is opposed to the project and identified issues of concern being ability to maintain a full fire department roster, concern about the number of members working out of town creating longer response time and the need to work with neighboring communities.

Council input: Jacobson: Pointed out that the past referendum failed primarily due to cost. Concern about inaccurate facts being presented when signatures are obtained, rumor of no longer having a fire department was presented to him – he added that this rumor is not a topic of discussion at this time. Prescott: Review of population's age data showing that the average age of Morton residents is 38-40. Walker: The referendum failed – council is here to represent what the people want, they don't want this building because we cannot afford it. We need to look at other options to determine what is affordable. We cannot put the city in this financial bind. Henning: inquired about number of new members on the department and the number that work or live in town. Information was provided. 3 new members in the last five years and 9 in the last ten years.

Dick Rebstock explained the difference in homeowners insurance and property insurance (for businesses) if we don't have a fire department. While homeowners would see a significant increase, the businesses would see a large increase.

Farmer added that the response for natural disasters would also be less personalized than it currently is.

Jacobson: Concern about statements made when the petition was presented to residents.

Walker: We need to look at other options. So far we have only had one plan. That one isn't working. There are other options that should be considered.

Jacobson: Where have recommendations come from for the plan: The insurance company recommended there be 3' between trucks and the department provided information on what they need for space.

Prescott: A local individual is preparing a plan that could be done to meet the needs of the department and be significantly cheaper. Prescott provided some preliminary information and would like this to be a consideration. The plan would also include an area where city offices could be.

Discussion on when the first payment would be due and if it would be affected by the 2018 budget.

Bill Rademacher: If this plan is acceptable, would assistance from the townships be needed?
No.

There being no further public input, motion by Prescott and second by Walker to close the fire hall public hearing at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Prescott to table the fire hall project for review of other options at the January 10 meeting. Second by Walker. Motion carried.

Ken Kuehl: Pointed out that project comparison needs to be done apples to apples. The plan that will be compared is the one that was presented by Morton Buildings.

Truth in Taxation: Motion by Walker and second by Henning to close the Truth in Taxation hearing at 8:30 p.m.

Discussion on the levy. Council reviewed the budget to determine if there were adequate funds in the budget for a debt payment if the fire hall would move forward in 2018. The levy could remain at the same rate and still have funds available for a debt payment. Council agreed that the levy should be increased. It was pointed out that the goals the council is considering should be considered when determining the levy. Motion by Prescott to increase the levy for 2018 from \$185,744 to \$188,530 (1.5% increase). Second by Walker. Jacobson opposed. Jacobson does not believe it is a significant enough increase. Motion carried.

Motion by Prescott and second by Walker to pay bills as presented, with additions. Motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting:
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.



Peach Hennen
American Farmer Edition 17 HMR



Aidan Luckhardt
Legacy Sports Pointer over under 12 gauge

2017 Gun Winners



Michael Ourada
Smith & Weston M&P 15

Thank You!

Morton Fire Dept would like to thank all those who donated and participated in this year's Steak Fry and Raffle.

Just Chattin

You gotta! You gotta! Get up in the morning and see that red sunrise! And look in the other direction and see that huge moon! And then look down and tramp through the snow! Forget it! Go back to bed!

Jason..thank you for the greenery on the front of the Senior Center. It's awesome!

On Your Health (Star Tribune) a Swedish study suggests that owning a dog is linked to a reduced risk for cardiovascular disease and death....but it was stronger with certain breeds, particularly pointers and retrievers. So what good are you, Duke!

Sally called the Center to make a reservation for lunch and the answer was: "Sorry, she's on maternity leave"

About 50 years ago: Dorothea Paul has been named Renville County's Outstanding Conservation Farmer of 1964....Uncertain reports are that there were about 13 deer shot last Saturday. Bob Wilt bulls-eyed himself a nice 300 lb, 6 point mule deer.....Carol Mahoney graduated St. Joseph's Practical Nursing School at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Paul,,,,,Bennett Trochll has been selected to appear in the 1965 edition of Outstanding Young Men of AmericaPatrick left his watch at the swimming pool. A Timex with a cowboy scribed band. He shoveled a lot of snow and pulled many, many weeds to be able to buy the watch....Chuck Hellie's nohitter against Fairfax. He faced 23 batters. "It was a Hellie of a game!" Denny Smith is the leading Indian hitter, sporting a .341 averaged.....Little fella' "Mother , give me a nickel." "What do you wam a nickel for?" "For being good". "Why don't you be like your Father and be good for nothing!".....The hardest thing about skating is the ice...when you come right down to it!.....open house bridal shower will be held at St. John's basement for Sandy Bidinger. She will marry JOhn Seehausen.

At the Senior Center: There will be change in management....I will work Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Shirley will work Tuesday and Thursday.. She will train me. That will make Table Number 1 very happy! Bone Builders will meet on Wednesday at 8:45a,m, at the Center. We had a very nice turnout at Beneath the Village Wreath. There was a big demand for Mary Lou's BBQ's. Thanks so much for coming!

Merry Christmas and a HappyNew Year!



Redwood Area Hospital

Hospice

2017 Willow Tree

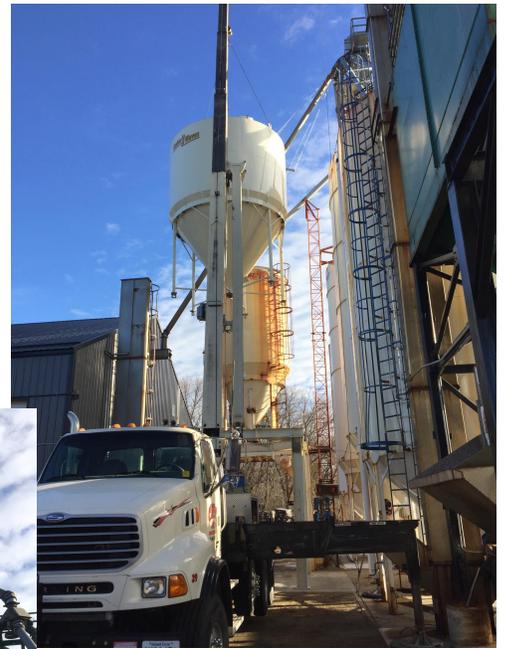
Memory Angel

Ornaments

Available for sale

at

Morton City Hall



Handi-Man

Home Repairs

TJ &

NESBURG

→ CONSTRUCTION ←

MORTON, MN

TIM NESBURG 507.430.0673 • JIM NESBURG 507.430.2513

Healthy Baker Dog

Treats!

~Located at River Valley Groom & Spa~

LOCATED AT RIVER VALLEY GROOM & SPA



Buy one get one 1/2 off Made in the USA!
Buy 2 Get 1 FREE Great tasting!
Buy 3 get 2 FREE! *While supplies last.

Need to earn extra money?

Mature workers wanted!



Earn while you learn and put your experience to work.

Paid training with a goal of employment

If you're 55 or older, unemployed and want to get back into the work force, Experience Works might have the training & employment opportunities that are just right for you.

Contact Experience Works at: 1-855-270-9660


www.experienceworks.org

HOUSING REHAB. APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Cities of Vesta, Lucan and Morton have received a grant to provide housing repair loans to eligible homeowners living within the city limits of any of these three communities/ Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- ⇒ Applicants must own or be purchasing a property
- ⇒ The home being improved must be the applicants principal place of residency
- ⇒ Repairs that are permanent and necessary are eligible
- ⇒ Applicant must be current on real estate taxes
- ⇒ The home must be insured
- ⇒ Homeowner must be classified as low to moderate income per the income guidelines of the program.

Applications are available at Morton City Hall

SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Sign up for a FREE smoke detector at City Hall!

Installation of the detectors will be available by

the Morton Fire Department

The alarms and installation will be provided to you at no cost!

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households.

EAP is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grants are:

- For renters or homeowners
- For households with income at or below 50 percent of the state median income
- Based on energy cost, household size, and income

Services may include:

- Payment of energy bills
- Help with utility disconnections or fuel deliveries.
- Education on efficient and safe use of energy.
- Advocacy with energy suppliers and human service providers.
- Repair or replacement of homeowners' broken heating systems.

2018 Maximum Energy Assistance Program Income Guidelines

EAP eligibility is based on the three most recent months of income.

Household Size	Three Month Maximum	Annual Income
1	\$6,250	\$25,000
2	\$8,173	\$32,692
3	\$10,096	\$40,385
4	\$12,019	\$48,077
5	\$13,942	\$55,769
6	\$15,865	\$63,462

APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLETING THE APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

CANCELLED STAMP COLLECTION PROGRAM

If you have stamps and you don't know what to do with them. But you would rather not throw them away here is a nice option for you. You can collect them and drop them off at City Hall to be donated to a Veterans Organization. The Veterans' National Stamp and Coin Club is a wonderful organization. They collect U.S. and foreign stamps and coins, postcards, sports cards and much more. This group then passes the items on to other Veterans Affairs support centers across the nation. The stamps and coins, etc., are supplied for therapeutic use helping veterans.



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

12/12/2017

Contact: Michael Sandager 320-523-1559

LOCAL CONSERVATIONISTS HONORED AT STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONVENTION

Horizon Farms, whose members include Brad and Darlene Nere and Kyle and Beth VanOverbeke of Danube, MN were recently honored as outstanding conservationists at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, December 3-5, 2017 in Bloomington, Minn. They were selected by the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the award.

Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is conducted with support from The Farmer magazine.

"The awards ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to recognize Horizon Farms," said Holly Hatlewick Administrator of the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District, which nominated Horizon Farms for the award. "Local leaders such as Horizon Farms are instrumental in conservation efforts and they provide a great example for Soil Health and Cover Crops in the Renville area. They deserve the recognition they received," she said.

For more information on the program, contact Mike Sandager at the Renville SWCD, phone 320-523-1559.

###



Pop Tab Program

What is the Pop Tab Program? Our Pop Tab Program is a great way for families, schools, organizations, businesses and individuals to support the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota's mission. When pop tabs are donated, volunteers bring them to a local recycling facility and exchange the aluminum for cash. All proceeds directly support the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota.

What exactly is a pop tab? A pop tab is the flip top on aluminum cans. You can collect them from soda cans, sparkling water cans and various other beverage cans. We also take tabs from soup, fruit, vegetable and pet food cans that have tabs.

Where do I drop my pop tabs off? Drop your collected tabs off at Morton City Hall. From here they will be forwarded to Rochester, Minnesota

Santa's Closet of Renville County Referral Form 2017

Santa's elves have asked you to fill out this referral form for yourself and any members of your *immediate* family (Children and spouse/significant other living in your home. Any other persons living with you must fill out their own referral form)



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Phone #: _____

Referral source _____

Full Name of Family Member	Birthdate/ Age	Relationship to applicant
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		

Please return this form to: CIRCLE, Attn: Santa's Closet , P.O. Box 225, Renville, MN 56284

Pick up Date and time: December _____

To be filled in by Santa's Closet staff

You must check appropriate boxes. All of the following factors must be valid.

I have a physical address in Renville County at **the time of referral and at Christmas, December 25, 2017.**

Send a copy of a recent bill or receipt as proof (P.O. Box not acceptable.)

All the children, even adult children, on the application live with me more than 50% of the time.

(You have full or primary custody.) Must prove with a copy of: WIC, school report card, check stub of child's employment or a letter with their name and your address no older than 2 months. Call with questions. 320-808-5697

The individuals listed will not be receiving gifts from another gift program.

I meet at least one of the following criteria: Please circle all of the assistance you receive.

*Medicaid *Food Assistance *Cash assistance *SSI/disability *unemployed

* Experiencing a current recent financial difficulty or crisis. **Must send along a letter explaining the difficulty.**

I have signed and dated below

Signature _____

date _____



FARMWARD
COOPERATIVE
Advancing farming for generations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jo Ann Gumto
Marketing & Communications
507.249.3196, ext. 1034
igumto@farmward.net

Farmward Cooperative Announces Equity Redemptions of \$3.4 Million

Morgan, MN – December 8, 2017 – The Board of Directors of Farmward Cooperative announced today that they have approved the redemption of \$3.4 million of patron equity. The board approved the redemption based on Farmward's strong balance sheet and positive earnings in fiscal year 2017. The \$3.4 million redemption will retire approximately 10% of the pre-merger patron equity held by both Harvest Land Cooperative's and Co-op Country Farmers Elevator's patrons.

Chief Executive Officer, Dave Stuk, also sites that a recent cash dividend received from Farmward's subsidiary company, AgQuest Financial Services, was a contributing factor in the Board's approval of the redemption and added, "Unlike most other grain and farm supply cooperatives, Farmward has the opportunity to add to income and financial performance as a result of its diversified business units and revenue sources, such as the income generated by AgQuest."

Farmward owns 98% of AgQuest, a financial services and insurance company that works with farm supply retailers to offer production and equipment financing and leasing, as well as crop and property and casualty insurance to the retailers' agricultural customers. "Going forward, we anticipate that AgQuest will continue to pay cash dividends to Farmward, which in turn will support Farmward's equity redemption budget in future years," said Sadie Reiners, Chief Financial Officer. "This is an important way for members of Farmward to get a return on their investment in AgQuest."

"It is our hope that this equity redemption is seen as one more sign that Farmward will continue to take steps to benefit patrons as we move forward together," added Board Chairman, Calvin Aarons. "It's important for our patron-owners, as well as the next generation of farmers, to stay invested in our cooperative, not only with their equity dollars, but with their continued business and loyalty."

It is Farmward's intent to have all equity redemption checks available at its Annual Meeting being held on December 20, 2017 at Jackpot Junction Casino, Morton, MN. Members will receive a formal invitation in the mail with details. Any check not collected at the annual meeting will be mailed on December 21.

About Farmward Cooperative:

Farmward Cooperative™ was formed with the merger of two strong, long-standing local cooperatives: Harvest Land and Co-op Country Farmers Elevator. Together, Farmward is a very diversified and forward-thinking company. Headquartered in Morgan, MN, they have outlet locations in Clements, Comfrey, Danube, Morton, Olivia, Renville, Sacred Heart, Springfield, and Wabasso. They offer a full range of agricultural products and services, including grain handling and marketing, crop protection, crop nutrients, seed, precision ag, bulk feed manufacturing and delivery, and bulk delivery of energy products, including refined fuels, propane, and lubricants. Farmward also provides producer financing, leasing, crop insurance, and property & casualty insurance through our subsidiary companies, AgQuest Financial and Northland Capital.



Timothy Nesburg, Realtor
 RE/MAX Realty Plus
 507-637-3236 Office
 507-430-0673 Cell
 mfdchief66@yahoo.com
 www.rvire.com

RE/MAX Each Office Independently Owned and Operated.



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Toilet Paper

Volume 17, Tissue 10

(A monthly communication brought to you by Renville County Public Health)



Renville
 COUNTY
 Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

Can you make up for a sleep debt by sleeping longer on weekends? It is possible to catch up on your sleep and pay back your "debt" if it's a small one. Making up for sleep deprivation during the week by sleeping longer on weekends isn't wise in the long term since it throws off your circadian rhythms. Remember, if you sleep until noon on your day off, you may have trouble falling asleep that night.

Sweatshirts

\$30



T-Shirts
 And
 Sweatshirts
 For Sale
 Available at
 Morton City Hall.
 Fund Raiser
 For
 Cedar Mountain
 Boys' Basketball

T-shirts

\$15





Mini Storage Available

**Secure 10'x10' and 10'x20'
Storage Sheds**

443 W 3rd Street, Morton MN

Call for availability

507.430.9201-Dan

807.829.9040- Aaron

Lutheran Social Service

JANUARY 2018

Morton Senior Nutrition Program

Monday, Jan. 1	4 oz. BBQ Pork 1/2 c. Scalloped Potatoes 1/2 c. Country Blend Veg Bun/Margarine 1/2 c. Applesauce 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Tuesday, Jan. 2	6oz. Creamed Chicken/Biscuit 1/2 c. California Blend Veg 1/2 c. Fruit Cup Margarine 1/2 c. Pudding 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Wednesday, Jan. 3	3 oz. Salisbury Steak 1/2 c. Parslied Whole Potat. 1/2 c. Squash Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Blushing Pears 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Thursday, Jan. 4	3 oz. Roast Turkey 1/2c. Mashed Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c. Green Beans Cranberry Sc. Garnish/Brd/Marg 2"x2" Pumpkin Dessert 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Friday, January 5	4 oz. Pork Chop/Gravy 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes 1/2 c. Corn Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Bar 8 oz. Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 8	8oz. Creamy Vegetable Soup 2 1/2 oz Turkey Sandwich 1/2 c. Fruit Cup Crackers/Margarine Cookie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Tuesday, Jan. 9	3 oz. Liver or Pepper Steak 1/2 c. Buttered Boiled Potatoes 1/2 c. Carrots Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Fruit Crisp 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Wednesday, Jan. 10	3 oz. Roast Beef 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes 1/2 c. Peas Dinner Roll/Margarine 2"x2" Pudding Dessert 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Thursday, Jan. 11	6 oz. Chicken Lasagna 1/2 c. Tropical Fruit 1/2 c. Lettuce/Drsg. Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Bar 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Friday, Jan, 12	4 oz. Swedish Meatballs 1/2 c. Paprika Potatoes 1/2 c. Country Blend Veg Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Ice Cream 8 oz. Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 15	6 oz. Beef Noodle Casserole 1/2 c. Green Beans 1/2 c. Peaches Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Pudding 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Tuesday, Jan. 16	4 oz. BBQ Pork Chop 1/2 c. Sweet Potatoes 1/2 c. Winter Blend Veget. Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Scalloped Apples 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Wednesday, Jan. 17	4 oz. Meatloaf/Catsup 1/2 c. Whole Parslied Potatoes 1/2 c. Creamed Corn Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Mandarin Oranges 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Thursday, Jan. 18	5 oz. Oven Crispy Chicken 1/2c. Mashed Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c. Carrots Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Poke Cake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Friday, Jan. 19	8 oz. Meaty Beef Stew with Carrots & Potatoes 1/2 c. Cole Slaw Biscuit/Margarine 2"x2" Cheesecake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 22	3 oz. Swiss Steak 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes 1/2 c. Peas Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Pineapple 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Tuesday, Jan. 23	4 oz. Honey Mustard Chicken Brst Baked Potato/Sr. Crm 1/2 c. Green Bean Casserole Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Cake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Wednesday, Jan. 24	6 oz. Lasagna 1/2 c. California Blend Veg. 1/2 c. Peaches Garlic Bread/Margarine Cookie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Thursday, Jan. 25	3 oz. Pork Loin 1/2 c. Whole Potatoes 1/2 c. Buttered Cabbage Dinner Roll/Margarine 2"x2" Fruit Crisp 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Friday, Jan. 26	4oz. Pub House Fish/Tartar Sc. 1/2 c. AuGratin Potatoes 1/2 c. Mixed Vegetables Bread/Margarine 1/8 slice Pie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk
Monday, Jan. 29	8 oz. Chili 1/2 c. Pears 2 oz. Cheese Sandwich Bun/Margarine/Crackers 1/2 c. Sherbet 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Tuesday, Jan. 30	3 oz. Sausage Egg Bake 1/2 c. Oven Baked Potatoes 1/2 c. Fruit Cocktail Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Coffeecake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk	Wednesday, Jan. 31	6 oz. Chicken Chow Mein 1/2c. Rice/Chow Mein Noodles 1/2 c. Oriental Vegetables 1/2 c. Mandarin Orange Gelatin 2"x2" Brownie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk				

This service is funded in part by a contract from the Area Agency on Aging with funding from the Federal Older Americans Act through the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Additional funds are provided by the State of Minnesota, United Ways, local communities, and other adult contributions. Approved by: Terri Weyer, RD, LD

Posted menu is regular diet. Diabetic, sodium, and fat restricted diets available upon request. Regular menu provides average of 700-800 calories.

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or EBT/Food Stamps) payment is accepted in lieu of donation

Call Joanie
507-697-6112
One day in advance to reserve
your meal



CITY OF MORTON
PO BOX 127
MORTON, MN 56270

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #5
MORTON, MN

ECRWSS
PO BOXHOLDER