



### City Snow Removal

Snow season is upon us and residents are reminded that snow removal on streets begins at 2:00 a.m. after a snowfall of 1/2" or more. All vehicles need to be off the street until the street is plowed from curb to curb. Any vehicle left on the street during snow removal will be ticketed and towed without warning. Please identify off-street parking areas for use during snow removal periods. Please keep boulevards clear of planters and other items that can be damaged by snow removal activities.

CITY OF ROSEAU

# Hometown Update

## 2014 Water Resources Bill Heads to Conference Committee in Washington—City Seeks Reauthorization of East Diversion Project

On October 24, 2013 the U.S. House of Representatives passed House File 3080, the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA). WRDA is the vehicle through which U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects are authorized in congress. The Roseau East Diversion Project was originally authorized in the 2007 version of WRDA; however, due to oversights in the Corps of Engineers feasibility study at the time, it was authorized at a cost level far too low for the Corps to complete.

When the U.S. Army Corps and City became aware of the authorization problem both actively sought a higher reauthorization amount to be included in the next version of WRDA. That opportunity presented itself this year when the Senate passed a new WRDA bill in September containing language that would allow for the reauthorization of Roseau's flood control pro-

ject. Since that time, the City has anxiously awaited U.S. House of Representatives action to take up a WRDA bill to match the Senate. However, when the House bill was ultimately passed in October, Roseau representatives learned that the East Diversion reauthorization language included in the Senate bill had been left out of the House version.

The two different bills, which contain a number of conflicting items, will now proceed to a Conference Committee of Senators and Representatives from both parties to be developed into a unified bill that would need to be passed again by both the full Senate and House of Representatives.

The City has been working with both our congressional delegation and our State representatives to reach out to members of the Conference

Committee to tell them of the importance of our project and its need for completion.

If the City is successful in getting the Senate language that reauthorizes the Roseau East Diversion project into the final WRDA bill, then the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is confident that they will be able to obtain sufficient funds from their current project allocations to complete the project. The Corps of Engineers anticipates that \$5.5 million in Federal funds are need to complete the diversion project. The City and State would still needed to provide \$4.5 million in local sponsor funding, but are confident that the funds will be available if the Federal funds are secured.

In the event that the original House language prevails, or that Congress does not pass a conference bill at all, the City has a "Plan B" to seek permission from the Corps of Engineers to complete the project using local sponsor funds from the State and City.



Aerial Photo of the northern reach of the Roseau Flood Control Diversion Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently opened bids on an additional construction contract for .38 miles of diversion channel construction for \$2.5 million. The apparent low bidder was Gladen Construction of Bemidji. Construction on this reach is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2014.

**City Offices are closed on the following days:**  
**Christmas Day—Dec 25**  
**New Year's Day—Jan 1**  
**MLK Day—Jan 20**  
**President's Day—Feb 17**

## Help Protect Your Community Investments—Report Vandalism



Whether it is graffiti on buildings, shooting out street lights, stealing street signs, or breaking playground equipment, vandalism costs our community money and is disheartening to those who work so hard to provide these improvements for the enjoyment and betterment of our community. The City of Roseau has been very fortunate in that vandalism in the community is still rare and typically minor in nature. However, instances of vandalism have been witnessed recently, and the City of Roseau asks local residents to be vigilant in protecting our community's assets and reporting any vandalism you might witness.

If you witness an act of vandalism, call 911. If you are reporting it to the Police after-the-fact, call the Police Department at 463-3129. Or you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) if you know who has committed an act of vandalism or suspect who has done it. You can also contact Crime Stoppers by text messaging by texting TIP262 and into to C.R.I.M.E.S (274637). Through Crime Stoppers you can get a cash reward for information leading to an arrest. Help protect our community assets and save our limited resources by stopping vandalism in Roseau.

**The City of Roseau reminds residents to use extreme caution this winter when on the Roseau River and the City Storm Water pond. Watch for flowing water and thin ice!**


**It is a violation to store any unlicensed and/or inoperable vehicles outside of an enclosed structure in the City of Roseau. Please remove all inoperable vehicles from streets, drives and yards.**



**Thank You!**



## Employee Transitions at the City of Roseau in 2013

2013 brought a number of changes to the city's staff. Many of the city's long term employees are reaching retirement and "turning over the reins" to new members. Two of the new faces added this year on the city crew include Mike Vacura and Jacob Mertens who both accepted Heavy Equipment Operator positions in the Street Department early in 2013. A Roseau native, Jacob joined the city crew from a position at Marvin Windows and Doors.  Mike Vacura, another Roseau native, came to the city from a position at Polaris Industries.



At the Roseau Municipal Liquor Store, Linda Roseborough was hired to fill the Liquor Store Manager position in October. Originally hailing from Iowa, Linda had been employed as an Assistant Manager at the Liquor Store since March. Linda is very excited about the new opportunity and has been actively engaged in updating the store.



In the City Administrative office, long-time employee Charlotte Erickson has announced her retirement from the city at the end of January 2014. Charlotte has provided the City Clerk's office over 30 years of dedicated service as both Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and most recently as the City Treasurer. Charlotte's many years of experience and hard work will be missed and we thank her for service to the Roseau community. The City is in the process of hiring Charlotte's replacement and anticipates having a new person in place by mid-December to work with Charlotte for a short transition period before taking over the Treasurer position.



The Roseau Police Department now provides a Rx Drop Box as a safe, secure and environmentally friendly option for the disposal of unneeded and unused prescription drugs. Residents are encouraged to dispose of all old prescription drugs and syringes at the PD Rx drop box. Contact the Police Department for more information 463-3129.

## Temporary or Portable Garage Structures not permitted in the City



The City of Roseau does not permit temporary structures to be installed as permanent storage or habitable structures in any zoning district of the city. Temporary structures, such as the one shown above, are commonly sold at hardware stores as an inexpensive alternative for storage needs. However, these structures, by their very nature, are generally not designed or engineered to meet the wind and snow loading requirements that would make them safe for long-term year round use in our region. Most of these structures will collapse or be torn apart by local weather conditions within a short period of time. Only permanent structures designed to meet snow and wind loading ratings are permitted within the city.

For building information please contact the Roseau Building Official at 463-2351. The Building Official is available by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

### HEATSHARE PROGRAM:

The City of Roseau promotes the Salvation Army's Heatshare Program. This voluntary contribution program provides financial counseling and assistance to Roseau area elderly, disabled, and others meeting income guidelines who have exhausted all possible public resources and are still unable to pay heating and/or energy bills this winter.

For more information on Heatshare contact the City Utilities Department at 463-2351 or [www.thesalarmy.com/serv/heatshare.htm](http://www.thesalarmy.com/serv/heatshare.htm).

Please consider a donation to Heatshare.

Contributions are tax deductible.



## Annual Christmas Lighting Contest

The Roseau Municipal Electric will again sponsor a Christmas lighting contest within the City of Roseau. Anonymous judges will tour the community in December to select the best Christmas lighting displays. Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 in Roseau Dough will be awarded in general and theme categories for residential displays. There is also a separate business category with three prizes.

The Roseau Municipal Electric is also sponsoring rebates for the purchase of plug-in (no battery operated) LED Christmas lights and decorations. Rebates of up to \$3/string of lights are available (must be 100 or fewer lights), up to 5 rebates per customer. Rebates cannot exceed the price of the LED string per package. For more details on how to submit a rebate contact 463-2351.



### Arena Schedules on City Website

The Roseau Parks & Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Roseau Community School, maintain regular free public skating hours at the Roseau Memorial Arena, North Rink and Ram's Sports Center throughout the winter season for both Open Skating and Open Hockey. Arena schedules can be found on the City Website.

### INNOVATORS, INVENTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

**March 2014** – The Roseau County Historical Society is hosting *Innovators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs*. This exhibit tells the stories of the NW MN regions innovative people and companies, both past and present. It features people who had "big ideas" as well as companies that have offered much to Minnesota and the World.

**Stop by the Roseau County Historical Society & Museum, in the City Center, 12 new exhibits on display. Open M-F 9:30- 5pm; Free Admission to the Museum**

## Problems Paying Your Electric Bill?

### Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the Northwest Community Action Agency may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact NW Community Action immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Northwest Community Action  
PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714  
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329  
[nwcaa.org](http://nwcaa.org)

### Energy Forum



Approximately 40 people attended the first Energy Forum at the Roseau City Center recently. Chris Walz and Allen Anderson of

Franklin Energy were the presenters, sharing information and answering questions on energy use, weatherization and conservation. Their demonstrations included showing various types of lighting and comparing different wattages and lighting spectrums for home use. The sessions were sponsored by the City of Roseau, MinnKota Power Cooperative and the Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Winners of the energy bill credits were Ray Christianson of Greenbush and Curtis Hukee of Badger. Thanks to all who attended.

# CITY OF ROSEAU

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Roseau, MN 56751  
Phone 463-1542

City Utilities  
1198 Center Street West  
Roseau, MN 56751  
Phone 463-2351

## CITY COUNCIL

Jeff Pelowski-Mayor

Curt Ireland Pat Novacek

Don Ross Linda Vatsndal

## CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Todd Peterson-Community Dev. Coord.

David Drown-City Superintendent

Ward Anderson-Chief of Police

Linda Roseborough-Liquor Store Manager

Jeff Ballard-Fire Chief

PRESORTED STD

US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT NO. 61

ROSEAU, MN 56751

Current Resident

Roseau, MN 56751



**Roseau, Feels Like Home**

**Our Website:**

**[www.city.roseau.mn.us](http://www.city.roseau.mn.us)**


## City of Roseau and NMPA Extend Its Electric Supply Agreement to 2055

In November, the Roseau City Council authorized the extension of its power supply agreement with the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) from 2031 to 2055. NMPA has been the City's wholesale electric supplier since 1981 when twelve cities, including Roseau, banded together to form a joint powers agency to purchase a 30% share of the Coyote Power Plant in Beulah, North Dakota. The power from the Coyote plant provides 10 NW Minnesota and 2 Eastern North Dakota communities with a firm power supply for well into the future at cost competitive rates. Without NMPA, these cities would be unable to cost effectively provide for their community's power needs independently. The original contract with NMPA ran through 2031, but the need to finance power plant and transmission improvements over a longer and more cost effective period, prompted the need to extend the power supply agreement.

## MHFA Approves Funding for a New Apartment Complex in Roseau

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) made an announcement on November 7th that it had approved \$4.3 million in funding to Sand Companies of Waite Park, MN to build a 40-unit apartment complex in Roseau. The new apartments, known as Tamarack Place, will be constructed at the intersection of Oak Crest Boulevard and T.H. 89 on the southwest side of the Oak Crest Subdivision. The 3-story apartment complex is projected to break ground in the spring of 2014.



 Did you know that a constantly running toilet can use up to 200 gallons per day? Water leaks can account for, on average, 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the home every year, enough to fill a swimming pool! Please keep your plumbing in good working order.

## WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

The Roseau Fire Department reminds you to keep the secondary exit of your home free of snow and other items in case of a fire emergency this winter. If you use electric heaters, be sure to keep them clear of debris; do not pile clothes or other items on or in front of them. Do not overload electrical circuits and be careful of light duty extension cords, use power strips with a circuit breaker if possible. If you plan to have a real Christmas tree, be sure to keep it well watered. A dry Christmas tree is a major fire hazard. Also make sure that your Christmas lighting is in good shape with no frayed wires or broken bulbs. Also keep presents and other decorations away from heaters and electrical outlets.