



CODE RED WARNING SYSTEM

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the free Code Red Warning System. The Code Red system provides automated phone notifications to subscribers of emergency situations such as tornado warnings or other emergencies. **There is no cost for this service.** Contact the Roseau County Emergency Management Office: 218-463-3375



Initiatives to Increase Roseau Housing Underway

City representatives have been actively involved in efforts to increase housing alternatives in Roseau, from single-family for-sale housing options to multi-family rental apartments.

One example of a multi-family project that was the most fully developed at the time of the writing of this newsletter was an apartment project proposal from Sand Companies of Waite Park, MN. Sand Companies is a developer, general contractor and property management company that has completed 73 multi-family projects in Minnesota and the Midwest. The project, which was presented to the Roseau City Council on May 6th, is proposed to be developed within the Oak Crest West Subdivision on the southwest side of Roseau.

Representatives from the City of Roseau have been in communications with Sand Companies since February when Sand Co. approached the City about their interest in developing a multi-family housing project to help address the

overall lack of housing for our community's increasing workforce. The lack of affordable and quality workforce housing limits the ability of our community to adequately attract and retain quality employees and families to our industries, medical facilities, school and other businesses.

Tamarack Place, as Sand Co. has coined its project, is an example of workforce housing that is affordable for the average local worker, but is also well built with a variety of amenities expected in a quality housing project for our community, including: an assortment of 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, parking garages, resident storage space, secured entry, elevator, playground, community room, unit washers/dryers, walk-in closets, and decks.

The project concept, which was supported by the Roseau City Council at its May 6th meeting, will be submitted by Sand Co. to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency this month for consideration of subsidy funding through the

Minnesota Challenge Grant program. The State's Challenge grant program provides funding to match local community and employer contributions to housing. The City has pledged to provide pay-as-you-go tax increment financing (TIF); the waiving of certain development fees, along with providing infrastructure improvements to a successful Challenge Grant project to improve the chances of a Roseau project being selected for funding. Without State and local subsidy, multi-family rental projects are not financially feasible in our community. Any project selected by MHFA for Challenge Grant funding could proceed to construction in the spring of 2014 with possible occupancy by the end of 2014.

In addition to the Tamarack Place project, the City is also working with other developers including, Kyle Geroy (Geroy's Building Center) and MetroPlains, out of Minneapolis, on other multi-family rental projects. The MetroPlains project would also be submitted to MHFA to compete for Challenge Grant funding in June, but project details were not available at the time of the writing of this issue. Kyle Geroy has proposed a two phase market-rate multi-family project that would construct 16-units in 2013 with an additional 40 units in 2014. Additional details on the Geroy project were also not available at the time of publication.

It should be noted that not all projects proposed are feasible and the State and City will seek viable projects that meet the housing demand while not oversaturating the market.



Above is a photo of a project similar to the proposed Tamarack Place that was recently constructed by Sand Companies in Plymouth, MN. The typical multi-family rental project would consist of between 30-40 1, 2 & 3-bedroom units in a two to three-story complex.

Roseau Fire Department: Is Your Home Firewise?



As a homeowner in rural Minnesota, local residents must realize that the threat of a wildfire is real. Minnesota alone has more than 2,200 grass and forest wildfires a year. Fire is an inherent danger of owning a home in a rural location, but that doesn't mean you can't do something about it. In fact, creating a defensible space around your house will enable your home to survive. The Minnesota DNR has created some resources for homeowners to use to create a firewise home. For more information visit the Minnesota DNR website:

dnr.state.mn.us/firewise/livingwithfire/index.html

Summer Gazebo Concerts

Enjoy an evening of free outdoor entertainment. Come and enjoy the show and bring your lawn chairs, blankets, picnic dinner and refreshments if you would like. Listen to Wild 102 or KRWB for details in case of bad weather.



The summer gazebo concert lineup for 2013 includes the following:

- June 20—Joyful Noise (Country & Gospel)
- June 27—Harmony Fire (Country, Rock, Inspirational, Gospel & Blues)
- July 11—Brock Dexter (Acoustic Music from Country to Rock & Roll)
- July 18—Highway 11 Ramblers (Variety of music with lots of accordion and country)
- August 1—50's Night with Walt Storey (Rock & Roll—dress up in your 50's outfit and drive that vintage car to the concert)
- August 8—The Woodpicks (Bluegrass, Gospel and Americana)
- August 15—The Lubben Brothers (Bluegrass type music)
- August 22—Okee Dokee Brothers (Americana Folk music)
- August 29—Autumn Sandwich

Roseau County Historical Society & Museum Summer Programming



The RCHS and Museum will be hosting Summer Explorers Youth Program this summer. Programming will include a fossil programs, Ojibwa shoulder bag project, pioneer programs, movies and scavenger hunts. Details and times will be listed on the Historical Society's Facebook page, www.roseaucohistoricalsociety.org/events, or call 463-1918.

Roseau County Communities & Employers Help Fund New Single Family Housing Construction Program



The cities of Roseau & Warroad, along with Polaris Industries and Marvin Windows & Doors, have invested \$1.5 million dollars to create a loan pool that will help build new speculative housing in Roseau County

to meet our community's growing demand. The local funds will be matched with funds from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, a philanthropic organization that helps fund housing in the rural parts of Minnesota. Greater Minnesota Housing Fund will also provide administration for the fund and provide technical assistance in the selection of developers to build the new housing stock. The selected developers will be able to access the loan pool at rates that are favorable and provide more flexibility than a standard bank loan.

The idea behind the creation of this fund is that it should help to "prime the pump" for single-family housing development. The funding agencies involved in this loan fund can be more patient in their lending and offer lower holding costs for the developer, thereby taking some of the risk out of pure speculative development. However, builders will be seeking potential homeowners to pre-sell homes so that they can be developed to meet an individual families requirements.

Anyone interested in purchasing a new home in the near future is encouraged to contact one or all of the selected housing developers to view actual homes, house plans, selected lots and gather other information on the process. In addition, GMHF may be able to provide housing incentives on these homes for families that income qualify.

Home developers participating in this program within Roseau include: Northwest Community Action Agency 218-528-3258, NW Minnesota Housing Coop 218-681-2340, Geroy's Building Center 218-463-3060, and Scott Johnson Construction 218-386-2474.

ROSEAU HOUSING FAIR



The City of Roseau will be hosting a housing fair later this month or in early July to promote its new housing development program. In addition to seeing new housing options, the fair is intended to supply a vast array of information on housing finance options, home repair and improvement resources, local contractor displays, and proposed housing projects.

State Legislature Passes Costly Solar Mandate on Private Power Suppliers

Roseau's Municipal Electric System Exempt from Mandates for Now

The 2013 Legislature passed an omnibus Energy Bill that contains sweeping changes to the State's energy policy as it relates to new solar mandates, in addition to other renewable energy changes.

The new energy bill requires all investor owned utilities (IOUs), such as Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power and Xcel Energy to obtain at least 1.5% of their energy supply from solar resources by 2020 (municipal and cooperative electric associations are currently exempted from these provisions as a result of extensive lobbying efforts in the legislature). This solar mandate is in addition to previous State mandates to obtain 25% of the State's power supply from all renewable resources by 2025. *It should be noted that the Northern Municipal Power Agency, of which Roseau is a member, and MinnKota Power Cooperative have achieved the 25% renewable mandate through the use of its wind and hydro resources.*

The cost of developing solar power capacity to meet this new State mandate is projected by the Center for the American Experiment to add 2 cents per kilowatt hour to the average electric rate. A cost increase of nearly 30% by some estimates. The increased cost is a result of the need to construct extensive new solar resources and the overall inefficiency of current solar technology. IOUs will need to create 150 megawatts of new solar capacity, or roughly 2,250 acres of solar panels to meet this new State mandate. This is at a time when there is surplus power capacity in the nation's electrical grid. There is currently no need for any new power generation, particularly expensive solar energy, when wholesale power prices are at all-time lows. Any new solar power created in the near future will have to be sold at dramatic losses into the wholesale power market causing local rates to have to increase for all of Minnesota's IOU customers in an effort to make up the difference.

Solar energy is some of the most expensive energy to produce. Solar power is 4 times more expensive than wind power. Wind power costs \$50/megawatt hour (\$20/megawatt hour when subsidized through Federal programs) while solar power costs \$200/megawatt hour. Again, like wind, solar power is intermittent so all utilities must continue to maintain firm power sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear power plants in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply even with any new solar resources.

In addition to the 1.5% solar mandate, IOUs will see net metering expanded to 1,000kW, along with their renewable portfolio mandate increased to 30% among other provisions. The net metering expansion would have been particularly troubling for Cooperative and Municipal electric systems as net metering provisions allow private owners of solar generation resources to be able to sell their excess generation capacity back to the providing utility at retail rates (up to 1,000 kW). At a time when most utilities have excess capacity, this provision would result in utilities purchasing unneeded power supply at full retail prices and dumping onto the wholesale market for less than the average power generation cost of the utility, resulting in tremendous losses. For small municipal electric systems, like Roseau, one large private solar array could bankrupt the system under this legislation.

It is anticipated that environmental groups will continue to push for more renewable energy mandates such as were introduced this year. There is also a real concern that there will be a push to include cooperatives and municipal electric systems, which are currently exempted, to be included under these same renewable mandates in the future.

James Hietala of Duluth, a local Sierra Club clean energy committee member was quoted in the Daily Caller as saying, "It's a big trade off. These carve-outs for some

big industries are disappointing, but the sense was just to get anything passed was a big step this year. This (solar mandate) is an important first step, and I guess something is better than nothing."

If the environmental groups are successful in their campaign for more renewable energy mandates, such as was passed in 2013, electric consumers in Minnesota could see their electric rates continue to increase dramatically, putting our business and industry at a significant competitive disadvantage to surrounding states. The Center for the American Experiment suggests that these new solar energy mandates could result in the loss of between 12,000-49,000 manufacturing, retail and hospitality jobs in Minnesota due to the high costs of electricity. For a small municipal electric, such as the City of Roseau Municipal Electric and the Northern Municipal Power Agency, there just is not enough capacity or revenues to absorb these types of renewable mandates without steep rate increases. These mandates pose a real threat to the viability of our electric utility and could lead to its insolvency and loss of local control over our energy rates and profits.

Local residents are encouraged to contact our State representatives to tell them how important reliable and affordable electricity is to our local business, industry and way of life.



Parks & Recreation Update

Thursday Night Youth Ball will be held on the following dates this summer: June 6, 13, 20 & 27; July 11 & 18; August 1 & 8.

A big "Thank You" to all of the team sponsors and volunteer coaches who make this program possible!

Youth Fall Soccer League and MinnAqua registration will be held in August via the City Website. Watch for details on this year's programs.

CITY OF ROSEAU

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PO Box 307
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 Vatnsdal

CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Todd Peterson-Community Dev. Coord.

David Drown-City Superintendent

Ward Anderson-Chief of Police

Brad Wiberg-Liquor Store Manager

Jeff Ballard-Fire Chief

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PERMIT NO. 61

ROSEAU, MN 56751

Current Resident

Roseau, MN 56751



Roseau, Feels Like Home

Our Website:

www.city.roseau.mn.us

Inoperable Vehicle Removal

Residents are reminded that the City of Roseau maintains a hazardous conditions and nuisance ordinance governing private property maintenance. One of the most common violations is the storage of inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles or vehicle parts outside of an enclosed structure. Vehicles that are not licensed or cannot be operated in their current state due to flat tires, missing parts or other conditions must be stored within a fully enclosed garage or storage building or removed from the property immediately. Junk autos can be taken to an auto recycler who may pay you cash for your vehicle.

Residents can notify the Roseau Police Department of any abandoned vehicles or vehicles that are being stored in violation of the City's ordinance at 463-3129.

The City requests that property owners do their part in keeping Roseau a clean, safe and enjoyable community to live in, by addressing any and all violations that might exist on their property. Let's keep Roseau looking great!



**It's Summer
and the Kids are Out!**



**Please slow down on all
residential streets and be aware
of pedestrians and bicyclists**

Pet Regulations



**Residents are reminded that
the City of Roseau requires the
licensing of all dogs and cats. In addition,
the city maintains leash laws for all
animals outside of homes and fenced
yards.**

**Please be courteous to your neighbors
and friends by controlling your pets,
cleaning up their waste and controlling
barking.**

Thank you.

Consumer Confidence Report



Water suppliers that serve the same people year-round must prepare annual water quality reports (consumer confidence reports) for their customers. The reports tell where drinking water comes from, what's in it, and how you can help protect it. You can find the City of Roseau's annual report on the city website at <http://city.roseau.mn.us/CCReport> or call 463-2351 for a copy. It was also published in the May 25th Roseau Times-Region edition.



Water Conservation

Summer is watering season and the City urges you to use water wisely in your landscape, please remember:

Not to water during midday sun or when it is windy, too much water evaporates

Not to water sidewalks or other impervious surfaces where water runs off

Use mulch and trees to conserve moisture in gardens and lawns