Mendota Days Cancelled for 2013?

The Mendota VFW announced during their December 2012 members meeting they did not have the funding or volunteers needed to continue the Mendota Days tradition into the 2013 year. If residents or local businesses would like to support the Mendota Days parade or celebration, please contact Don Collier of the Mendota VFW to inform him of your interest at 651-688-7408.

The Mendota Days parade and celebration is a long tradition for our community. Please consider helping in some small way to continue this community celebration that brings people from all over the twin cities to our historic city.

**Historic City of Mendota**

**Spring Newsletter – February 2013**

**

City of Mendota

P O Box 50688

Mendota, MN 55150

Phone: 651-322-0827

Email: cityofmendota@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL

Brian Mielke, Mayor

Joan Perron

Alan Ralston

Josh Lee

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

David Neameyer

For permits, visit cityofmendota.org, or contact Mr. Neameyer at 651-600-2176

City Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mendota VFW, located at 1323 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota, MN

**www.cityofmendota.org**

**VFW ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

**Sale begins Thursday February 28, 2013, and ends Sunday March 23, 2013**

**Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10 – 6**

**Donations Accepted Monday through Sunday**

**2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

**Please, no computers, computer equipment or TVs**

**NOTICE OF VACANY FOR MENDOTA CITY COUNCIL**

The candidate will serve on the Mendota Council until January 2015.

**Interested candidates should provide a letter of interest to the Mendota City Clerk, P. O. Box 50688, Mendota, MN 55150 by March 6, 2013.** This letter of interest should include a brief biography of the candidate, a resume, and/or information describing the qualifications of the candidate that would recommend him/her to the Mendota City Council.

Prospective candidates should be prepared to attend the Council Meeting on March 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. for an interview by the Mendota City Council. The Council Meeting will take place at the Mendota VFW Post 6690, 1323 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota, MN 55150.

**In order to qualify as a candidate for the Mendota City Council, you must be a U.S. Citizen, at least 21 years of age, and a Mendota resident.**

 *![C:\Users\brues_000\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0ED9F2S5\MP900442457[1].jpg]()*

**TRIMMING TREES AROUND ELECTRICAL POLES**

Xcel Energy does not rim trees or remove branches off of service lines leading into the home. Customers can call the Xcel Energy Customer Business Office (1-800-895-4999) to request a line drop. An Xcel Energy crew will come out and disconnect the service line. The homeowner can then safely do the necessary trimming/branch removal or can hire out a contractor to complete the work. Once the work is complete, the customer can call Xcel Energy to send out a crew to make the final reconnection. Xcel Energy does not charge for a service line drop.

**Residential Rehab program:** This income based program can offer residents assistance with rehabilitating their home. The CDA would look at code deficiencies within their home and prioritize what work would need to be done, such as repairing/replacing siding, roof, bathroom, kitchen, deck, etc. The loan the resident would obtain through the CDA is a 0% interest deferred loan, which would be payable to the CDA when the home is sold or is no longer the resident’s primary residence. In a foreclosure situation, the CDA would not receive any money for the loan. The Rehab program is funded by CDBG fund from a county wide pool. The CDA offers over 60 loans per year, with a loan for each homeowner to be at least $15,000, but not exceed $25,000. Residents can expect to wait six months to one year to obtain a loan.

**Foreclosure Counseling Program:** Since 2003, the CDA has offered counseling to residents whose homes are entering into the foreclosure process. The CDA will help educate residents regarding the timeline of the foreclosure process, assist in halting the sheriff sale, as well as work collaboratively with the homeowner’s bank to obtain mortgage modification. The CDA would act as an advocate for the homeowner during the foreclosure process; however, funding is not available for homeowners to exit the foreclosure process.

**Pre-Purchase Counseling:** The CDA educates potential homeowners on what it means to own a home. They offer one on one counseling, discuss their credit and what it means to have good credit, as well as how much homeowners should set aside for routine maintenance costs for their homes, discuss the process for obtaining a mortgage. The CDA also offers a home ownership class, **Home-Stretch,** which is a 9-hour group session in which basics of home ownership, home inspection and mortgage counseling are taught.

**How to Apply:** Home Improvement Loan applications can be downloaded from the CDA’s website at [www.dakotacda.org/homeowners.htm](http://www.dakotacda.org/homeowners.htm) or call (651) 675-4469 to request an application by mail.

For more information or questions regarding these programs, contact Mark Hanson at (651) 675-4469 or mhanson@dakotacda.state.mn.us



CLEAN UP PET EXCREMENT

According to Mendota Ordinance 507, it is a nuisance to leave pet excrement on any property, public or private. Therefore, pet owners must remove their pet excrement from the park, sidewalk, grass area, or any other public or private area.

If pet waste is left on sidewalks, streets, yards or other open areas, it can be washed away by rainwater into nearby storm drains and/or culverts. Pet waste can be a source of harmful bacteria. Some storm drains and/or culverts flow directly into lakes, streams, or rivers delivering bacteria and other pollutants to the water.

Whether in one’s own yard or walking a dog in a public area, it’s easy to do the rights thing by collecting pet waste with a “pooper scooper” or even a plastic bag. When finished, just place the waste in a bag and in the garbage.

**DNR BLUFF AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS WITHIN MENDOTA’S CRITICAL RIVER CORRIDOR AREA**

Land on and within 20’ of luffs is known as the **bluff impact zone (BIZ)**, and land on and within 20’ of very steep slopes is known as the **slope preservation zone (SPZ)**. No structures, land alteration, intensive vegetation clearing, or construction activities are allowed within the BIZ or SPZ.

Vegetation within the SIZ and BIZ must be managed as follows:

®Vegetation currently in a natural state shall

 be maintained.

®Restoration of vegetation to a natural state is

 encouraged.

®Intensive vegetation clearing is not allowed.

®Screening of structures, vehicles, and other facilities as viewed from the river of the opposite shore must be maintained.

®Limited cutting, trimming or clearing of trees,

 shrubs, and other understory vegetation may

 be allowed for:

1. The removal of trees, limbs or branches that are dead, dying, diseased, infested; to prevent infestation or spread of disease; or that pose a safety hazard as determined by a forester, arborist, or other qualified local government unit (LGU) representative;
2. The removal of invasive, non-native plants as determined by a forester, arborist, or other qualified LGU representative;
3. Woodland/habitat management and restoration activities sponsored and approved by a resource agency or the LGU; and
4. Forest management activities sponsored and approved by a resource agency or the LGU, and per the forestry use standards.

In areas cleared of vegetation as provided in items 1 and 2 above, native vegetation must be reestablished, either by allowing it to regenerate naturally (no cutting or mowing) or with plantings subject to a restoration plan.

 ![C:\Users\brues_000\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\598ZHROC\MP900442325[1].jpg]()

**THE CITY OF MENDOTA HAS A NEW CITY EMAIL!**

**TO CONTACT THE CITY CLERK, SEND AN EMAIL TO:**

**cityofmendota@gmail.com**

 ![C:\Users\brues_000\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ZD2PX2OD\MM900285328[1].gif]()

**NOTICE OF OPEN CLERK POSITION**

The current City Clerk, Jennifer Bruestle has accepted a position with the City of Eagan beginning March 11, 2013. Therefore, the City of Mendota will be interviewing individuals for the position for City Clerk.

Interested individuals should submit a resume to the City of Mendota, P O Box 50688, Mendota, MN 55150 by April 3, 2013.

**Turn over a new leaf in 2013**

**AUGUST: USE NATURAL PEST AND WEED CONTROL IN THE YARD.** Keep your lawn healthy without using excessive amounts of pesticides and fertilizers: • Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. • Use a sharp mower blade. • Test your soil to see what nutrients it needs before applying fertilizer.

**SEPTEMBER: CLEAN OFF THE GARAGE SHELVES.**

Bring leftover household hazardous waste–such as paint, antifreeze, pesticides and fluorescent bulbs–to The Recycling Zone for free, environmentally-safe disposal.

**OCTOBER: CLEAN OUT THE HOME OFFICE DESK DRAWER.**  Use pens and markers with non-toxic ink, and opt for eco-friendly printer paper.

**NOVEMBER: REPLACE STORE- BOUGHT AIR FRESHENERS.** Some store-bought air fresheners contain chemicals that can irritate lungs and trigger asthma or allergy symptoms. Simmer lemon, cloves or cinnamon on the stove for a natural air freshener.

**DECEMBER: LEAVE SHOES AT THE DOOR** when entering your home because your shoes can track in deicing salts, fertilizer and other chemicals.

with the New Year’s resolution to make your home

healthier by eliminating possible toxins. Trying to reduce

chemicals in your home all at once can be over-

whelming, but breaking it down each month will

 help you achieve a healthier home by the end of 2013.

**JANUARY: CLEAN OUT THE MEDICINE CABINET**

and if you still have a mercury fever thermometer,

bring it to The Recycling Zone (see page 4) for

proper disposal. Receive a free digital thermom-

eter in exchange.

 **FEBRUARY: GROW HOUSE PLANTS** which improve

 indoor air quality by adding oxygen and humidity to

the air, making it healthier to breathe. Plants also

help rid rooms of pollutants generated by furnaces

and stoves

**MARCH: CLEAN OUT UNDER YOUR KITCHEN SINK**

 and inventory your cleaning products. Use up what

 you have, then replace items with bio- degradable,

 non-toxic or plant-derived products.

 **APRIL: CHECK FOR RECALLED TOYS OR CHILDREN’S**

 **JEWELRY**

containing physical and chemical hazards at the Consumer

Product Safety Commission’s website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

**MAY: CLEAN OUT THE HOBBY ROOM.**

Many art and craft supplies contain chemicals and

![C:\Users\brues_000\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PS9826RN\MP900399290[1].jpg]()

should be stored in tightly closed containers.

Use non-toxic supplies if possible.

**JUNE: REFRESH YOUR FAVORITE ROOM WITH LOW-**

**VOC PAINT.**

Paint can release trace amounts of volatile organic

compound (VOC) gases for months after it has

fully dried and the smell is gone. Instead, use low-

or no-VOC paints, varnishes and waxes.

**JULY: READ LABELS IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.**

Most laundry detergents use cleaning and

brightening agents which leave residues

on your clothes that can be absorbed by your skin.

In the future, consider one with biodegradable,

fragrance-free or plant-based ingredients.