

# Henning Happenings

VOLUME 13

JANUARY 6TH, 2017

## Snow Removal Policy for the City of Henning

The City of Henning will begin snow removal operations the morning after a snowfall of 2" or more. There may be cases where less than 2" of snow has fallen, but snow removal would still be appropriate, most likely occurring on a weekday. There may also be cases where more than 2" has fallen, but snow removal is not necessary, most likely occurring on weekends or holidays.

The order of snow removal will be determined by traffic and safety. Generally, the Industrial Park and Railway Ave areas will be first due to heavy truck traffic. The business district will be next. Windrows will be made in the center of the street on Front St, 2nd St, Fergus Ave (between Front and 2nd) and Holden Ave (between Front and 2nd). School Ave (between Marshall and Front) will also get windrowed, but the timing will be determined by the school schedule. The next areas are the outlying areas of the city, such as Airport

Rd. and Old 67. The rest of the town will follow.

After windrows are made in the business district the city crew will clean them up and haul them away. Although MNDOT plows Douglas Ave; in the areas between Front St. and 3rd St, the city crew will clean up the snow near the curb.

Sand will be spread where and when it is prudent. Special attention will be given to intersections and high traffic areas, as well as areas around the school.

City staff will clean snow off of city owned parking lots and sidewalks along city property. The cleaning of sidewalks will not be done until city streets and parking lots are cleaned. Businesses and residents are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their sidewalks. Snow that is pushed onto sidewalks from our equipment is still the responsibility of the homeowner or business, to remove.

The snowplow typically starts around 3am, with the

tractor and dump-truck beginning at 5am. Please be aware if you are along a snow route, you will be ticketed if your vehicle is not moved. If you do not live along a snow route, and are able to move your vehicle off of the street it will allow for more complete snow removal.

We also emphasize the need for vehicles and foot traffic to avoid the area where the city crew is working. It is extremely hard to see with blowing snow from the equipment. If you notice they are working in an area, please refrain from parking in that area until they are finished, so they can complete their work without having to navigate around vehicles

Although we will do our best to follow the policy, some situations may call for the city crews to deviate from it, therefore; the Utilities Superintendent will make the ultimate determination of when or when not, to begin snow removal.

Ordinance 92.01 (B1) *Duty of owners and occupants.* "The owner and the occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall use diligence to keep the walk safe for pedestrians. No owner or occupant shall allow snow, ice, dirt or rubbish to remain on the walk longer than 24 hours after its deposit thereon. Failure to comply with this section shall constitute a violation."

(B2) *Removal by city.* "The City Clerk or other person designated by the City Council may cause removal from all public sidewalks all snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish as soon as possible beginning 24 hours after any matter has been deposited thereon or after the snow has ceased to fall. The City Clerk or other designated person shall keep a record showing the cost of removal adjacent to each separate lot and parcel."

## Meter Safety

With the snow piling up, we ask that you keep your utility meter clear of ice and snow. All utility meters must be easily accessed for safety and maintenance reasons. We also ask that you take precautions to prevent snow and ice that might fall off of your roof and onto the meters. Snow and ice that slides off of your roof

and onto your electric service could cause your meter to be dislodged from its socket. Falling snow and ice can also cause gas leaks if it falls on your meter or connected pipes.

You also need to keep your gas meter clear. If it becomes covered in snow, it could result in gas entering

into your home. Make sure to check out the Natural Gas Safety article inside this news letter about what to do should you smell gas in or around your home.

Please make sure paths to your meters are clear and any gates and doors leading to your meters are operable.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside!

### DOMESTIC ANIMALS:

If you're cold, they're cold. Remember to bring your pets inside when it is cold out. If this is not possible, be sure to provide a warm shelter for them to use. Heated water dishes ensure that they will remain properly hydrated. Any domestic animal that is not given proper shelter in freezing temperatures, can result in seizure of the animal and or a fine.

### UTILITIES:

With two mild winters under our belt, the temperatures of the last few weeks, feel a bit shocking. This morning it was a balmy -26. As most of us know, this means our furnaces are running non-stop. There are several steps you can take to conserve the amount of energy you are using to heat your home.

- ◆ Make sure windows and doors are airtight by checking seals. Using something to block the draft helps reduce the amount of cold air com-

ing inside your home. Use plastic to cover the windows. Energy saving curtains or drapes also help block cold air seeping in through your windows.

- ◆ Use a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature in your home. Keeping it cooler during the times you are not home or at night, reduces the amount of heat your home is calling for.
- ◆ If you are able to shut off certain areas of your home that you do not use, you can also reduce your heating costs.
- ◆ Make sure to change air filters in your furnace. Have a professional check your furnace to make sure it is operating properly.
- ◆ Switch the direction of your ceiling fans to push the warm air down.

If you find yourself having difficulties paying your heating bills, contact the City Office for information regarding Energy Assistance. Families and individuals within certain income guidelines are eligible for financial assistance paying heating costs.

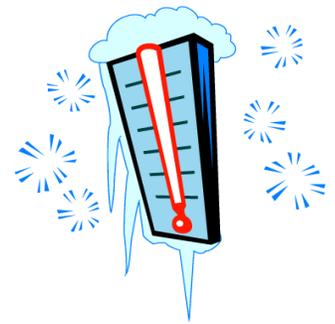
Contrary to popular belief, you can have your utilities disconnected in the winter. The City of Henning will work with our heating customers to ensure you do not get disconnected. Contact us today to arrange payment plans and obtain information on heating programs, if you are behind on your heating bills.

Freezing water pipes can be an issue when temperatures dip so low below zero. Make sure to check on areas that are susceptible to freezing. If you own property that is empty, but not winterized, make sure to check on the property often. Water charges accrued during a burst pipe or leak are still the responsibility of the

home owner.

Check on your elderly neighbors or neighbors who may live alone. Check to see if they may need assistance getting their mail or other tasks that could result in them falling outside in the frigid temperatures.

**STAY WARM & STAY SAFE!**



## Community Volunteers Needed!

Have you ever asked yourself how different things get done in and around town? Have you ever wondered who is responsible for the Festival, Skating Rink, Turkey BBQ, Stocking Stuffers, Landmark, Fishing Derby, or Community Education?

All of these groups and activities are run by volunteers. People who give of their time to make sure we have fun experiences for all of our residents.

At some of the various trainings we attend concerning government in our communities, one of the most oft-discussed issues, is the decline in the number of people working in volunteer organizations. The work,

events, or activities they provide, have diminished or gone away completely.

How many of you have kids that utilize the skating rink? Did you know that the rink was purchased through the Henning Lions? Since the rink became more than a flooded piece of ground, the Henning Lions have been responsible for the set-up and take down of the rink. Due to decrease in members they are no longer able to do this. Thankfully this is one area the City was able to step in and help, but would if we couldn't. Would you be sad to see it go away?

Our Festival and Turkey BBQ

are run by the Chamber of Commerce, but take many non-chamber volunteers to help run. The Henning Rod and Gun club provides Hunter Safety, Trap League, Fishing Derby and Gun Range through the use of volunteers. Henning HOPE gives us Stocking Stuffers, the Easter Carnival, and Family Halloween Party. The Henning Lions have given us Winterfest in the Hollow. Henning Landmark Center brings us the Corn and Brat Feed, Medora Musical, provides the back drop for Santa Day, and provides countless art and cultural events for all age ranges.

Oftentimes you will find the

same people volunteering for the different organizations. One thing we all recognize is how busy we have all become. It is understood that people have family, work and church obligations, that may make it difficult to volunteer for another group.

For a small town, Henning has a lot to offer in the line of events and activities. If some of these started disappearing, what would you miss? Would you be willing to volunteer your time, to make sure they are enjoyed for the years to come? If you knew you could help, but didn't want to commit to joining an organization,

Continued on back page...

## Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

The City of Henning Natural Gas Utility operates a system of underground natural gas pipelines to provide safe and economical energy to the residents and businesses of our community. We are required, by the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety, to send gas safety notices twice a year, to all natural gas customers, and once a year to anyone along our gas route.

Pipelines are one of the safest transportation methods available. If in the unlikely event a natural gas leak occurs, it can cause a fire or explosion. We want to help you stay safe around gas facilities. This notice is designed to assist in that effort, providing information on reacting to and reporting gas leaks and on excavation safety. If you have further questions, please contact us using the provided numbers.

### **Suspected Gas Leaks:**

Indications of possible gas leaks include: Unusual odor inside or near the pipeline outdoors, hissing noise, bubbles in puddles, dirt being blown into the air, or dead or discolored vegetation near an underground pipeline.

### **If you Suspect a Leak:**

Evacuate the area immediately. Travel upwind to escape any potentially dangerous accumulation of gas and do not re-enter until told by City Staff or emergency personnel it is safe to do so. Call the gas supplier from a safe location— NOT the building where you smell gas. DO NOT light a match, operate light switches, appliances, engines, landlines, cell phones, or any other sources of ignition. Keep other people out of the area until help arrives.

**Remember, suspected gas leaks are potentially dangerous. Leaks must be reported and investigated immediately. We need your help to continue to operate a safe distribution system.**

Dig-in (excavation) damage is a leading cause of gas system damage. To minimize this hazard, the most important thing you can do is **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!** Gopher State One Call, or GSOC, is a FREE statewide service that allows utilities to locate any buried facilities they own, before you start digging. Call 811 or 800-252-1166 before digging.

Please call the City Office with any questions or concerns you may have at 218-583-2402. To report a gas emergency after hours, call 218-583-4089 or 911.

## Tree Trimming

Soon we will begin tree trimming on boulevards and around overhead power lines. With falling tree limbs and moving equipment, the tree trimming job site can be a dangerous place. If you see us trimming trees in your neighborhood, please be careful, and do not approach. During Tree Trimming there are several operations happening at once so, we may not see you approach. With the truck, skidsteer, and chainsaw running, we may not hear you approach either. If you are concerned that one of your trees may be threatening a power line, please contact the City of Henning at 218-583-2402 to report it.

## 2017 Chamber of Commerce Event Schedule

- ◆ City Wide Garage Sale: June 17th, 2017
- ◆ All School Reunion Turkey BBQ: June 23rd
- ◆ Henning Festival: July 14th-16th, 2017
- ◆ Turkey BBQ: August 18th, 2017
- ◆ Santa Day: December 2nd, 2017

City of Henning

612 Front St  
PO BOX 55  
Henning, MN 56551

Phone: 218-583-2402  
Utilities After Hour Emergency: 218-583-4089  
Cityofhenning@arvig.net

*Visit us on Facebook  
or at  
cityofhenning.com*

**Watch Facebook, the City Webpage and our Scrolling Sign for upcoming event notifications!**

## **...Community Volunteers Continued**

would you put your name on a list for the things that you would be willing to join or help with?

### **Henning Lions: Celebrating 100 years of service!**

Be a part of their 100 year-legacy project, food shelf fundraiser, or Environmental project, contact: Wayne Hilchen toll free 877-234-9701 Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month Oct-March at Noon at the Henning Landmark Center and April- September at 6:30p.m. at Oakwood.

**Henning H.O.P.E.: Helping Others Pursue Excellence!** Be a part of the Easter Carnival, Halloween Party, Gala Fundraiser or Stocking Stuffers. Contact Holly Wendland 218-583-2665 or come to a meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm. January-April at the Art Room (next to Chagen's Pub) and May-November at The Station Coffeehouse and Deli.

**Henning Landmark Center:** Contact Dan Broten for ways you can support this cultural, art and activity center. 218-548-5760 or stop by: Tues. and Thurs. 1-4 and Saturdays 10-2pm.

**Henning Rod and Gun Club: Enjoying the Tradition of the Outdoors!** Support Trap Leagues, the Henning Gun Range and Hunter's Safety. Contact Doug Trana at B&D's if you are interested in helping with the Annual Fishing Derby taking place on Feb 4th, 2017. 218-583-2732.

**Community Education:** Do you have the time or talent to teach a class to the community? Contact Debbie Vorderbruggen at the Henning Public School if you are interested. 218-583-2927

**Henning C.H.A.T: Community Health Action Team.** Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Henning Landmark Center at 3:30pm. Be a part of

the bike rodeo, Festival 5k, and more! Contact: Nikki Lohse 320-291-6541, Kay Thoreson 218-583-4106 or Donna Smith 218-583-2305 for more information.

**Chamber of Commerce:** World Famous Turkey BBQ, Henning Festival, Santa Day! You don't have to be a chamber member to help with any of the activities. Contact Susanne Torgerson at 218-548-6683.

**Save the Trinity: Dedicated to the preservation and use of the Trinity Church:** Contact Carleen Markuson at 701-212-6943

If you do not see your non-profit Henning organization listed, please let us know and we will get it in our next issue of Henning Happenings!