



City Administrator's Update

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 2018

Upcoming Events:

February 19
City Offices Closed
President's Day

February 20, 5:30
Council Work Session
City Hall

February 20, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

February 21, 6:00 pm
CAFD Board
Station 3, Perch Lake

February 27, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Library

Administration/Finance

Staff is working with McKinstry to review City facilities to identify energy saving opportunities. We hope to have more information soon on opportunities to improve the City's energy efficiency.

I attended the Ehlers Public Finance Seminar and attended sessions on various economic development and project funding topics. As the legislature is about to kick-off, I've been staying in touch with our legislators on our legislative priorities for the session including a needed revision to our Sales Tax legislation.

Public Works/Parks

Miscellaneous

The City received notice that we have been awarded up to \$1,000,000 in Local Road Improvement Funding towards the planned 2018 Cloquet Avenue improvements. This is a state grant which does not require repayment so it's excellent news. Staff and Council will need to prepare several actions in the upcoming weeks before the funds are eligible for disbursement.

Utility staff have assisted with a handful of frozen water service calls over the past two weeks. Notices will go out Friday to our last tier of properties which have a documented history of freezing to begin running water. This winter is shaping up to be the most severe frost conditions since 2014 and one of the worst in over 40 years of local records.

Community Development

Economic Development

Activities of staff this week include a walkthrough of the cold storage warehouse area of the Jarden/Diamond Brands building with APEX staff and the property owners in an effort to assist them in crafting a marketing flyer for the space; meeting with the Cloquet Middle School developer while they were in town this week meeting with ISD #94 administration; partnering with MnPower in responding to a RFP (Request For Proposal) for business space; and the completion of Economic Development loan reports to the State.

Minnesota Housing announced over \$60 million is available to provide affordable mortgages to first-time homebuyers through a collaboration with Minnesota cities and counties, including \$210,489 for Cloquet. See the attached Press Release for more information.

Planning and Zoning

City Planner Cottingham enjoyed the week in a warmer climate and during his absence there were several development questions which must mean we are nearing the spring season.

Building Inspections

Building Official Munter attended three days of training put on by the Association of MN Building Officials in the Twin Cities. Matt attended classes on Plumbing, Non-Structural Plan Reviews, and International Building Code Fire and Life Safety Principles. Thursday and Friday were spent getting caught up with phone calls, inspections, plans reviews, and other development inquiries. Staff is gearing up for the building season and with that comes follow-up on unresolved building and housing code enforcement cases. Laurie has been focused on public works items this week while assisting several customers with HVAC permits who are experiencing furnace problems.



Dave Hallback, Mayor

City Council Members:

Jeff Rock, Ward 1
David Bjerkness, Ward 2
Roger Maki, Ward 3
Kerry Kolodge, Ward 4
Steve Langley, Ward 5
Adam Bailey, At Large

Aaron Reeves,
City Administrator
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218)879-3347
areeves@cloquetmn.gov

Visit Our Website at:
www.ci.cloquet.mn.us

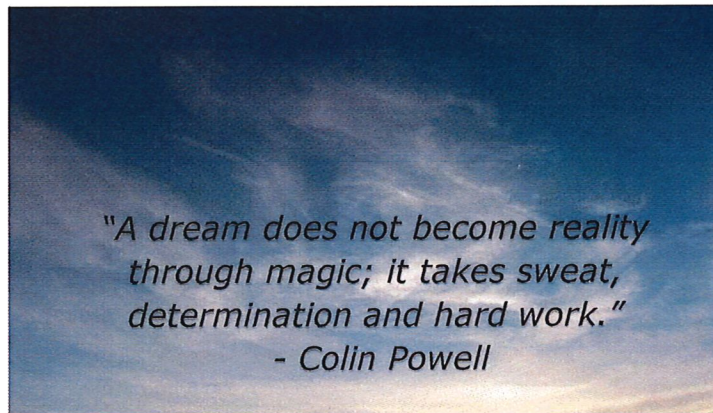
Staff notified Permitworks of the department's intent to work with them on new building permit software. Their bid was higher but staff unanimously expressed the preference in working with an in-state company from a customer service perspective.

Library



Last week four Wilderness hockey players joined us for story time. They read stories, sang and did crafts with the preschoolers.

This week we added faxing to our list of services we are providing. We are charging \$1.00 per page to send and \$.50 to receive. This service has become very popular already. We also have our new print station up and running and our regular patrons are becoming pros at printing their own documents. The staff has been great about explaining the new process and helping work out the bugs. Coming up on February 24th, Mary Mulari invites the public to bring their vintage aprons to the library share memories and stories and learn how vintage models inspired today's modern aprons.



Other Information Attached:

- * MN Department of Transportation Local Road Improvement Program Award Letter
- * Minnesota Housing Press Release
- * January 30, 2018 Mediacom Correspondence
- * Cloquet Parks Department Social Media Flyer



DEPARTMENT OF
U TRANSPORTATION

State Aid for Local Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 500
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 12, 2018

Caleb Peterson
Cloquet City Engineer
City of Cloquet
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
RE: 2017 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Solicitation

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Thank you for submitting an application for the Local Road Improvement Program. Your project on Cloquet Avenue was selected for Local Road Improvement Program funds appropriated by the legislature in 2017.

Please work through the project development process with John McDonald, MnDOT District State Aid Engineer. The city will need to submit plans for approval along with an engineer's estimate before a final determination for funds will be approved. At that time, a MnDOT grant agreement number will be assigned for the project. We have estimated \$1,000,000 of LRIP funds for this project.

Your agency is required to execute a bond grant agreement, which includes certification of right of way ownership by the agency and a resolution agreeing to finance any cost in excess of the grant amount before the grant can be authorized for reimbursement. These funds cannot be used on any part of the project that falls within MnDOT right of way.

Templates for the resolution and grant agreement will be posted on the State Aid website. If have questions, please contact me at patti.loken@state.mn.us or by the phone number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Loken".

Patti Loken
State Aid Program Engineer

cc: John McDonald, District State Aid Engineer
File



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2018

Minnesota Housing: Megan Ryan, 651.297.3566
megan.ryan@state.mn.us

City of Cloquet: Holly Hansen, 218.879.2507 x4
hhansen@cloquetmn.gov

Cloquet working with Minnesota Housing to provide affordable first-time homebuyer loans
More than \$60 million in resources available in 2018

Cloquet, Minn. – Minnesota Housing announced over \$60 million is available to provide affordable mortgages to first-time homebuyers through a collaboration with Minnesota cities and counties, **including \$210,489 for Cloquet.**

Homebuyers can take advantage of these resources through the Minnesota Housing Start Up loan program, which offers fixed interest rates and downpayment and closing cost loans up to \$12,000 for eligible first-time homebuyers. Buyers can purchase homes in Cloquet that cost up to \$253,800. Income limits vary by location and household size, going up to \$92,400.

“Providing tools in Cloquet such as these, forward the goal of providing affordable housing opportunities. Affordable housing was a key finding in the 2014 Cloquet Housing Study and housing is the top 2018 priority of the Cloquet Economic Development Authority (EDA). The program is an excellent match for our population demographic and we’ve appreciated being a participant, as have our local banks,” said Holly Hansen, Community Development Director for the City of Cloquet.

Minnesota Housing is a state agency that provides access to safe and affordable housing and builds stronger communities across the state. Minnesota Housing offers purchase, refinance, and home improvement loans, as well as financing for affordable rental housing throughout the state.

“Minnesota Housing’s affordable loans, combined with the support of the City of Cloquet and its participating local lenders, will help more families achieve homeownership,” said Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal.

First-time buyers can get started by contacting participating Cloquet lenders which include Frandsen Bank and Trust, North Shore Bank of Commerce, and US Bank.

- Gene Pelletier, **Frandsen Bank & Trust:** 218.878.4861, gpelletier@frandsenbank.com
- Anna Carlson, **North Shore Bank:** 218.625.1263, acarlson@banknorthshore.com
- Brandy Meidl, **US Bank** 218.878.7867, brandy.meidl@usbank.com

Minnesota Housing collaborates with individuals, communities, and partners to create, preserve, and finance affordable housing. Find out more at www.mnhousing.gov. Follow us at www.facebook.com/minnesotahousing and on Twitter @mnhousing.

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Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) 2018 Participant Allocations

PARTICIPANT NAME	ALLOCATION
Alexandria, City of	\$232,290
Anoka County	\$5,965,985
Blue Earth County	\$1,147,964
Bluff Country HRA - <i>(Fillmore and Houston)</i>	\$679,655
Breckenridge, City of	\$100,000
Carver County	\$1,721,784
Chippewa County	\$100,000
Chisago County	\$937,132
Clay County	\$1,076,078
Cloquet, City of	\$210,489
Crow Wing County	\$1,095,141
Freeborn County - <i>(Albert Lea administrates)</i>	\$523,204
Grant County	\$100,000
Headwaters Regional Development Commission - <i>(Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen)</i>	\$1,453,611
Hennepin County	\$13,991,313
Kandiyohi County	\$726,917
McLeod County	\$613,501
Mower County	\$670,637
North Mankato, City of	\$236,362
NW MN Multi-Co. HRA - <i>(Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau)</i>	\$1,468,070

PARTICIPANT NAME	ALLOCATION
Oakdale, City of	\$478,046
Olmsted County	\$2,618,738
Otter Tail County	\$267,642
Ramsey County	\$4,041,942
Red Wing, City of	\$283,111
Rice County	\$1,122,639
Scott County	\$2,437,304
SE MN Multi-Co. HRA - <i>(Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, excluding Red Wing and Winona)</i>	\$1,280,921
Sherburne County	\$1,481,007
St. Cloud, City of	\$1,152,362
St. Louis County	\$3,417,934
Steele County - <i>(Owatonna administrates)</i>	\$629,107
Stevens County	\$166,701
SW Regional Development Commission - <i>(Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock)</i>	\$869,527
Swift County	\$160,575
Washington County	\$3,853,373
Winona, City of	\$470,192
Wright County	\$2,268,961
TOTAL	\$60,050,215

Affordable Homebuyer Loan Programs

Minnesota Housing partners with a statewide network of lenders to offer safe, affordable loans to buy your first home, buy your next home, or refinance.

Make your dream of homeownership a reality. Minnesota Housing can help! Our network of participating lenders around the state will help you find the right Minnesota Housing loan for your situation and your budget. If you're a first-time homebuyer, our Start Up program is just for you. If you're ready to buy your next home or refinance the one you're in, check out Step Up. Both have money-saving benefits that will make buying a home work for you.



As little as 3% down, plus downpayment loans up to \$12,000.

You don't need 20% down to get into a home. At Minnesota Housing, eligible borrowers can go as low as 3%, and even add a downpayment and closing cost loan up to \$12,000.



Affordable rates.

Minnesota Housing offers affordable, fixed interest rates. Current rates can be found on our website at www.mnhousing.gov and are subject to change.



Low or no mortgage insurance options.

With our exclusive conventional loan products, options for reduced or no mortgage insurance are available to lower your monthly payments.

Contact a participating Minnesota Housing lender to start your path to homeownership.

- Gene Pelletier, **Frandsen Bank & Trust**: 218.878.4861, gpelletier@frandsenbank.com
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651.296.8215
www.mnhousing.gov

Minnesota Housing does not make or arrange loans. It is neither an originator nor creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. The terms of any mortgage finance transactions conducted in connection with Minnesota Housing programs, including important information such as loan fees, the annual percentage rate (APR), repayment conditions, disclosures, and any other materials which are required to be provided to the consumer are the responsibility of the Lender.





Downpayment and Closing Cost Loans

Don't let a downpayment prevent you from buying a home. Minnesota Housing loans go up to \$12,000 to help make homeownership work for your budget.

Need help with your downpayment? Concerned about paying for closing costs? We can help! Minnesota Housing downpayment and closing cost loan programs provide up to **\$12,000** to help you bridge the gap and become a homeowner. Depending on your need and eligibility, choose from the Monthly Payment Loan with the same affordable interest rate as your first mortgage or a Deferred Payment Loan with 0% interest.

Additional eligibility requirements, including income limits, minimum credit score, and home cost limits apply. Loans must be fully repaid.

Monthly Payment Loan

- Loans up to \$12,000
- Interest rate equal to first mortgage rate
- 10-year loan term with monthly payments
- Available with Start Up and Step Up loan programs

Deferred Payment Loan

- Loans up to \$8,000 (up to \$10,000 for borrowers who meet criteria for Deferred Payment Loan Plus)
- 0% interest, repaid when property is sold, refinanced, or first mortgage is paid off
- Loan term equal to first mortgage term
- Available with the Start Up loan program

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Theresa Sunde
Senior Manager, Government Relations

Via Certified Mail

January 30, 2018

Dear Cloquet City Official:

Earlier this month, Mediacom adjusted the Local Broadcast Station Surcharge (LBSS) on customer bills based on our best estimate of how much local broadcast stations like ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC would increase their rates for 2018. Despite our efforts to keep costs down, the local broadcasters we carry increased their year over year rates by an average of 35%. The collective increases these station owners demand to be paid are considerably higher than what we anticipated. As a result, effective on or around March 1, 2018, Mediacom will be making the following adjustments to the LBSS:

Product:	Old Rate:	New Rate:	Net Change:
Local Broadcast Station Surcharge	\$11.78	12.05	\$0.27

The fees we pay to retransmit local broadcast stations like ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC are by far our fastest growing programming cost component. The owners of these channels are able to take advantage of outdated federal laws to force excessive rate increases on consumers year after year. For more information about the extent of this growing national problem, please visit www.mediacomonyourside.com or www.americantelevisionalliance.org.

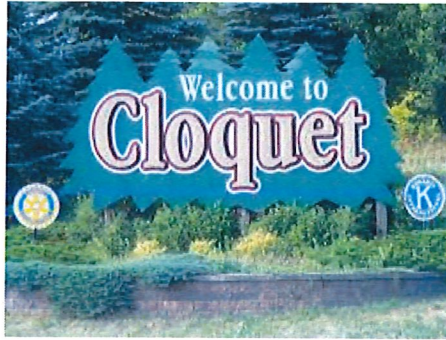
Mediacom appreciates the opportunity to continue to serve your community's telecommunications needs. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (507) 837-4878 or tsunde@mediacomcc.com.

Yours sincerely,

Theresa Sunde

Theresa Sunde

Company 1652



The Cloquet Parks Department
is now on



"Cloquet Parks"

&



@CloquetParks