



City Administrator's Weekly Update

Week Ending June 24, 2016



Upcoming Events

June 28, 4:15 p.m.

Library Board
Library

July 4th

City Hall Closed

July 5, 5:30 pm

Council Work
Session
City Hall

July 5, 7:00 pm

Regular City Council
Meeting
City Hall

July 12, 7:00 pm

Planning
Commission
City Hall

July 13, 8:00 am

EDA
City Hall

July 19, 5:30 pm

Council Work
Session
City Hall

July 19, 7:00 pm

Regular City Council
Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Brian Fritsinger
1307 Cloquet Ave
Cloquet MN 55720
Ph: 218-879-3347
Fax: 218-879-6555

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Supervisory staff completed our Drug and Alcohol Policy Training over the past two weeks.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of former FDL Chairperson Pete Defoe. Staff attended his funeral Friday.

Scanlon Merger Study

The City Council opted to hold off on further discussions regarding the possible merger with Scanlon until a future date. As a result, there will be no referendum held on the topic this fall.

Elections

The City is still looking for Election Judges, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please pass their name on to either myself or Kris St. Arnold.

Public Buildings

The Library Board has authorized the development of a sketch plan for the library expansion project. This sketch plan will be used for grant and fund raising efforts.

4th of July Celebration

July 4th is almost here and the Planning Committee is close to having everything buttoned up. Let's hope the weather cooperates and folks will come down to Veteran's Park to enjoy the many activities during the day and take in the fireworks later in the evening. A schedule of events can be found on the City's website.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Marketing RFP

Staff has begun work on the development of a community marketing RFP. This project was a priority adopted by both the EDA and City Council for 2016. Discussion will take place on the proposal in the near future.

PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS

Athletic Park Skate Park

The City Council accepted a proposal to begin design work on the skate park to be located at Athletic Park.

Summer Road Projects

Work on 3rd Street has been somewhat slow as coordination with the US Post Office and our contractor has been a bit of a challenge.

The Highway 33 Frontage Road overlay projects are well underway with sidewalk and curb work completed. The actual overlay on the Highway 33 Frontage Road was being installed at the time of this update and will hopefully be done this week.

The Slate Street sidewalk project is still in a holding pattern while we wait for formal agreements and approval from the State of Minnesota.

Utility Extension Study

Staff has been working to finalize the study on the investigation into the feasibility of utility extensions. Discussions with our engineer regarding this project will take place in the near future.

Miners Development/Frontage Road

Staff met with representatives of Miners this week to re-engage on the proposed frontage road at the Pine Tree Plaza. The company is working diligently on some concepts for site development so is looking to move this project forward yet this year. This project is currently programmed into the City's CIP for 2018, so a great deal of conversation will need to take place in a short period of time.

Other Information Attached:

- * June 24, 2016 Press Release
- * Friends of Animals Letter
- * June 17th Mediacom Letter

"Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

*-Henry Ford,
American industrialist*



June 24, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED IN CITY OF CLOQUET

The City of Cloquet is calling on eligible residents to serve as Election Judges on Primary Election Day, August 9th, and General Election Day, November 8th, in what is expected to be a heavy voter turnout election. In every Presidential Election since 1980, Minnesota has led the nation in voter turnout.

“The number of individuals seeking to serve as Election Judge is down this year”, says City Administrator Brian Fritsinger. “On an average, we have approximately 8 judges that work at each of the City’s six polling sites. This year, we have only 38 that have applied.”

“The August Primary is usually not as busy as November, so it is a great opportunity to be trained in as a first-time judge”, said Fritsinger. “It’s a great opportunity for Cloquet residents to meet others in their community, and while the work can be challenging, it is also rewarding and many of our judges return each election.”

In Cloquet, Election Judges are paid \$10.00-\$12.00 an hour depending on their assigned duties. By law, Election Judges are granted time off from their regular work. “People can be a judge for ½ day or a full day, it just means we need judges,” said Fritsinger. Potential judges must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, be able to read, write, and speak English, and attend a 2 hour training session provided by Carlton County.

Duties include:

- Open and close the polls (judges work from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or later)
- Be responsible for all election materials
- Ensure only qualified voters are permitted to vote only once
- Distribute ballots
- Help voters who require assistance
- Register new voters at the polling sites
- Obtain the results after the polls are closed
- Certify the precinct election results

These are important jobs for our community and we hope our residents will pitch in to help during the elections. For more information or to view online application materials, visit www.ci.cloquet.mn.us, “Elections & Voting” page, or call (218)879-3347.



Friends of Animals Humane Society

1418 Highway33 South 🐾 Cloquet MN 55720 🐾 218-879-1655 🐾 www.foaonline.org

Dear Friends,

First of all, we would like to thank you for the ongoing and long standing opportunity to provide impound services for you. We are proud to partner with you in promoting animal welfare in our community.

You may recall the financial crisis we experienced two years ago. Our reserves had been depleted and our future was bleak. At that time, Carlton County increased their support by \$30,000 annually, and we have received a one-time donation from the City of Cloquet. We appealed to the community and received a strong and supportive financial response. Our Board of Directors intensified their financial focus and monitors the budget carefully. We are proud to report that currently, our financial standing is solid. We have not dipped into our reserve dollars since September of 2014, and we look forward to providing animal services for many years to come.

Our greatest challenge at this point is our facility. We have been at our current location at 1418 Hwy 33S for 15 years. It was never intended to serve as an animal shelter, but even so, has served us well. We have re-purposed rooms, moved equipment, creatively adjusted procedures and adapted. But now it is simply worn out. We have been acutely aware for years that our building is not going to last very much longer. All winter we battle frozen pipes that leak or burst. We have limited water sources and a sub-standard drainage system. The exterior and interior metal walls are literally rusting away. The electrical supply is limited. Heating and cooling the front half of the building is hit and miss, with the recommendation in place that we replace that heating and cooling source. We use electric space heaters to keep the cats warm. The flooring is worn, and the storage is inadequate when you buy cat litter and animal food by the pallet to save dollars. We have very poor ventilation, often causing us to use fans and open doorways for circulation. And finally, we do currently have the space required to physically separate the healthy dogs from those that are ill or aggressive.

We have been contacted by a potential buyer of our current property. We have spent months exploring the options of relocating into an existing structure vs. building new. Construction costs make new construction very challenging, even with the potential of donated labor. Recently, another opportunity has presented itself in the possibility of purchasing the Cloquet Home Center property. This property would add 1000 square feet to what we have currently, the entire property is fenced in, and also includes a ware house for storage and/or future expansion. We feel it would be an excellent location for us, but it would require extensive remodeling.

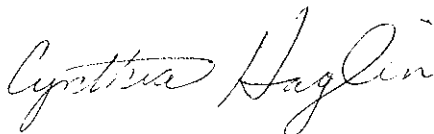
Our budget is not able to support a mortgage payment. We anticipate an extensive remodel, and there is always the potential of unpredictable add on costs. Projected cost of a remodel is approximately \$300,000.

At this time we are reaching out to every town and municipality that has contracted for our services in the hope of securing a financial commitment that would help to make this move happen. Of course, no funds would be collected until the time that all of the required steps are completed including the real estate transaction itself and city approval.

Please consider committing to a one time donation. Consider the 614 animals that were adopted out into the community by Friends of Animals in 2015, and the revenue they bring to local businesses. Consider the health and safety risk that was removed by the 542 stray animals that Friends of Animals got off of the streets and public places in 2015, 162 strays from the city of Cloquet alone. And consider the 184 lost animals that were returned safely home because of Friends of Animals. Please help us to move forward in our mission "To save, secure, and enrich lives of lost, neglected, abused, and abandoned animals in Carlton County through compassionate and understanding care in a safe haven until a permanent and loving home is found for them."

Thank you sincerely for your time in contemplating our request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Haglin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Cynthia Haglin, Director



Theresa Sunde
Government Relations Manager

June 17, 2016

Dear County Official:

Mediacom Communications is making these channels available to our customers on or around July 20th for \$9.99 each.

Channel Name	Location	Type	Description
RTL International	961	German	Soaps and Series
TV5 Monde	963	French	Saturday night movies
RAI International	966	Italian	News, Italian movies and soap operas
Russian TV Network	968	Russian	Nightly newscast
Channel One	969	Russian	Movies, news, game shows, children's programs, comedy, and talk shows
The Filipino Channel	972	Filipino	New films from Sky Cinema
tvk1	975	Korean	News, dramas, movies, sports, business, health, music, children's, game shows,
Saigon Broadcasting SBTN	976	Vietnamese	24 hour primarily Vietnamese programming
Star India Plus	978	South-Asian	Films and Music
Star India Gold	979	South-Asian	Popular drama series
Life OK	980	South-Asian	News in 3 languages

Mediacom customers may call 866-609-6180 for more information. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 507-837-4878 or email me at tsunde@mediacomcc.com.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sunde

Mediacom Communications Corporation
1504 2nd Street SE, Waseca, Minnesota 56093