

# HOLDINGFORD

Gateway to the  
Lake Wobegon Trail



From City Hall August 2017

We are just days away from the water tower being completed and put back into service. There will be outside work that may continue to happen, but the day for the water tower to be back on line is August 23 – Yeah!

Last month, we had the weed ordinance in the newsletter and online. Letters will be sent to homeowners that have grass and weeds in excess of 12 inches in height. We will give you a time frame to take care of it, if you need help, please contact city hall and we will help find individuals that can be hired by you. The ultimate goal is to lessen the amount of mosquitos and spreading of weeds, have your neighbors happy and neighborhood and the city looking nice. There is an example of the water bill increase that the city is implementing in September. If you have questions please do not hesitate to ask. I have been reading about all our neighboring cities also making this move. The costs of water and sewer testing, maintenance and replacements are driving up the costs for all cities.

This months' newsletter has important tidbits about strays, wood cutting and upcoming events! Make sure to read carefully.

As of the printing of this newsletter, the school Dreamcatcher II is well on its way to be finished. Thank you to Superintendent Chris Swenson, the school board and all the hard working individuals that helped in organizing and volunteering to work on this fantastic project. Holdingford has something more to really be proud of.

Don't forget to come to the Harvest Festival Friday August 25. Support your small town businesses. Buy Local.

Respectfully,

Susan Marstein, Mayor City of Holdingford

#### Holdingford City Clerk's Office Hours

Monday 8 AM – 4 PM

Tuesday 8 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday 8 AM – 6 PM

Thursday 8 AM – 4 PM

Friday 8 AM – 2 PM

Mayor's Hours:

Mondays 5:30-7:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 8 – 10 AM

#### Looking Ahead – Important Dates

- August 18, 19- City Wide Garage Sales
- August 25 - Harvest Festival
- August 26 – Hazardous Waste Collection –  
8 AM – 11 AM, High School Parking Lot
- September 4 – Labor Day, City Offices closed

For more community events, please see the Community Calendar at [www.holdingfordmn.us/calendar](http://www.holdingfordmn.us/calendar)

City of Holdingford,  
420 Main Street, PO Box 69, Minnesota 56340  
City Office: 320-746-2966

[www.holdingfordmn.us](http://www.holdingfordmn.us) [clerk@holdingfordmn.us](mailto:clerk@holdingfordmn.us)



**Watertower Reconditioning Project Update:  
The project is nearing completion.**

- The watertower is scheduled to be online on or before August 23, 2017.
- Thank you to all Holdingford Residents for their patience during this project!



**Utility Rate Increase**

At the July 10, 2017, city council meeting, an increase in water and sewer rates was approved to go into effect on the September 2017 utility bill.

What does mean to me?

Currently, the base water rate for accounts is \$19.00 which includes 2,500 gallons of water with excess water (over 2,500 gallons) billed at a rate of \$.005 per gallon. Under the new rate structure, the base rate will drop to \$12.00 per month and will include 1,250 gallons with excess water (over 1,250 gallons) billed at \$.007 per gallon.

The base sewer rate for accounts is currently \$19.00 which includes 2,500 gallons (based on water usage) with excess billed at a rate of \$.005 cents per gallon. With the new rate structure, the base rate will drop to \$15.00 per month with overages (over 1,250 gallons) billed at \$.0085 per gallon.

WATER RATES	Current Rates	Current Rate Example	New Rates	New Rate Example
Base rate	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Base Gallons Included	2,500	Usage 3000 gallons	1,250	Usage 3000 gallons
Overage billing rate	\$.005/gallon	\$2.50	\$.007/gallon	\$12.25
<b>SEWER RATES</b>				
Base Rate	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Base Gallons Included	2,500	Usage 3000 gallons	1,250	Usage 3000 gallons
Overage Billing Rate	\$.005/gallon	\$2.50	\$.0085/gallon	\$14.76
Total Water and Sewer		\$43.00		\$54.01

Why are the rates different for water and sewer?

The cost of treating waste water has risen more dramatically than the cost of producing drinking water over the years. Also, wear on equipment from dealing with disposable wipes and other items that should not be put in the waste water system has increased the cost of service time and equipment replacement.

If you have any questions, please contact city hall.

**ORDINANCE HIGHLIGHT: 91.19 FEEDING STRAY CATS AND DOGS.**

**(A) Definitions.**

(1) FEED or FEEDING means the placing of dog or cat food, or similar food products or consumable materials attractive to dogs and cats, which may result in dogs and cats congregating thereon on a regular basis, placed on the ground, in an obviously intended feeder, or in a feeder at a height accessible to cats and dogs.

(2) STRAY means an unlicensed domestic or feral dog or cat running at large and unaccompanied or controlled by an owner.

**(B) Policy and purpose.** High populations of stray dogs and cats pose a hazard to human health and safety, as such animals provide a fruitful breeding ground for infectious disease, including but not limited to rabies and distemper, and may otherwise bite or attack humans and domestic animals. In addition, food provided for stray animals is often attractive to wild animals such as raccoons and rodents and may create nuisance conditions such as a rat harborage or other wild animal infestation.

**(C) No person shall feed or allow the feeding of any stray cat or dog within the city.**

**For more information, please visit [www.holdingfordmn.us/ordinances](http://www.holdingfordmn.us/ordinances).**

## **CLEAN UP TIME?**

What are you going to do with all those hazardous or nuisance products lying around your home?

### **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION!**

**Products accepted include:**

- Paints ● Automotive Chemicals ● Adhesives ● Cleaners ● Sealers ● Aerosols
- Poisons ● Garden Chemicals ● Solvents ● Roofing Tar ● Pool Chemicals ● Mothballs
- Fuels ● Fluorescent Bulbs ● Mercury

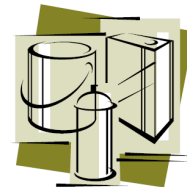
**Products NOT accepted include:**

- Used Motor Oil \* ● Antifreeze \* ● Electronics ● Unknowns ● Explosives
- Household Garbage ● Appliances ● Furniture ● Tires ● Pharmaceutical Waste
- Medical Waste ● Business Waste

**Place: Holdingford High School**

**Date: Saturday August 26, 2017**

**Time: 8am – 11am**



\* Residents are encouraged to use the public used oil facilities located throughout Stearns County. For more information call Stearns County Environmental Services at 1-800-450-0852 or (320)656-3613. THANK YOU!

# Holdingsford Street Fair



Friday August 25<sup>th</sup>, Main Street, Holdingsford

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Street fair

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Open microphone entertainment

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Live music

9:00 p.m. : Chamber of Commerce Ranger Raffle  
winners announced

Main Street will be closed for dozens of street vendors, tour the Historical Society Museum and enjoy live music, plus local businesses with specials!

Sponsored by the Holdingsford Chamber of Commerce



## **Need firewood for the winter?**

Please contact City Hall as we have some trees that we would like cut down and hauled away.