



Volume 9: Edition 4, April 2011

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Clean-up efforts are underway



Save the date for Spring Clean-up held Saturdays in May: 7, 14, 21 and 28. Spring Clean-up is a value-added benefit of Mankato's garbage and recycling service.

keep Mankato looking its best by taking leaves, branches and other compost items to the SMC compost site, 57032 231st Lane, Mankato at no-charge.

[Learn](#) more about how public works staff is leading the way in other efforts as part of the after-winter cleanup.

In addition, Mankato's public works staff are partnering with the National Guard, which is providing about 40 guard members, to help with needed storm debris clean-up in city parks on Saturday, April 9.

For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Mankato's flood preparedness efforts continue

Mankato's flood preparedness efforts are year-round. Parks and areas closed until further notice are:

- Land of Memories Park
- Sibley Park ballfields
- The trail from Sibley Park to Riverfront Park



River walls protect Mankato. Flood preparedness is a year-round effort.

Daily photos of the Minnesota River are posted [online](#). In addition, observation stations have been set up and marked with orange fencing. There are two stations in

Plan to attend Mankato's water treatment plant open house

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, June 23, plan to attend an open house for the city of [Mankato's water treatment plant](#). Tours will be provided.



Mankato's water treatment plant, 730 Mound Avenue.

Mankato's water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards for high water. View upgrades and enhancements that:

- help the plant operate at maximum efficiency to be sustainable
- conserve energy and costs
- boost water quality
- improve security
- increase capacity for future demand
- draw more than 50 percent from surface wells instead of deep well water supply

[Learn more](#) about the event and [watch](#) Mankato Minute about the water treatment plant. The video is also available [online](#). Register to win a Quality of Life package. The purpose of the Quality of Life package is to bring attention to the services provided by the city of Mankato and how they contribute to Mankato's quality of life. For more information about the upcoming open house at the water treatment plant, [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8692.

Councilpersons to host listening sessions

City of Mankato Councilpersons Karen Foreman and Jack Considine will hold listening sessions in April to

Sibley Park and one in Riverfront Park. There is a \$100 fine for crossing areas marked with police tape since these areas are unsafe because there is pooling water, it's slippery and there are dangerous currents.

Learn more about Mankato's flood preparedness efforts [online](#). For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Mankato's population grows

According to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, Mankato's population has grown by more than 21 percent—from 32,427 to 39,309—since the last census taken in 2000.

"This increase reflects a healthy growth rate for the city of Mankato, which experienced more than \$1 billion of construction activity during the past decade," said City Manager Patrick Hentges. "This growth was anticipated and planned to occur in an orderly and sustainable fashion."

[Learn](#) more about steps the city of Mankato has taken to position the city for future growth.

For more information [contact](#) City Manager Patrick Hentges at 507-387-8695.

What's "your take" about events that should be held in Riverfront Park?



Open for visitors in Riverfront Park by Jennifer George, Eagle Lake.

[Give](#) "your take" about what entertainment options you would like to see in Mankato's Riverfront Park.

Mankato's Riverfront Park provides a unique location for outdoor entertainment and has

hosted no-cost as well as ticketed events. The city is open to ideas and event suggestions. Mankato Area International Festival

Experience cultures

Celebrate diversity and cultures from around the world at the Mankato Area International Festival. Activities include a flag parade, singing, dancing, food booths, cultural displays and Children's World.

provide an informal opportunity for citizens to meet with them regarding their specific wards:

Karen Foreman serves ward 1

Saturday, April 2

9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Hilltop HyVee food court, 2010 Adams Street

[View](#) ward 1 map, which generally serves the hilltop and eastern portion of Mankato.

Jack Considine serves ward 5

Tuesday, April 5

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cub Foods West deli area, 1200 South Riverfront Drive

[View](#) ward 5 map, which generally serves the western portion of Mankato.

[Determine](#) which ward represents a specific Mankato address online. For more information contact Councilperson [Karen Foreman](#) at 507-382-4256, or Councilperson [Jack Considine](#) at 507-340-4509.

Go on a high tech treasure hunt at Elk's Nature Center

Geocache Community Day
An event to use technology and have fun in a city of Mankato park

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 30
Elk's Nature Center in
Rasmussen Woods
555 Stoltzman Road
Mankato, MN.

\$10/family, \$5/adults,
\$2/50K-12
Pre-registration for a limited time
is required.

What is geocaching?
It's a high-tech treasure hunt
using Global Positioning
Systems, also known as GPS
units, to search for caches—
boxes that contain treasures
donated by sponsors.

Why geocache?
Geocaching is a fun, healthy,
hands-on outdoor activity for all
ages that can be done
individually or in groups any
time of the year.

Where can I get a GPS unit?
Programmed GPS units may be
reserved by contacting Elk's
Nature Center staff at 507-387-
8585. It's important to reserve a
GPS unit because there are a
limited number available. People
may also use cell phones or car-
units.

Elk's Nature Center
Rasmussen Woods
555 Stoltzman Road
Mankato, MN 56001
507-387-8585
www.elksnaturecenter.com

All funds raised from this event go directly back
into the community to support Elk's Nature Center
Educational Resources and participating Mankato
Area Public Schools' special teacher organizations.

Save the date--Saturday, April 30--to go on a high tech treasure hunt.

Positioning Systems (GPS) units will be available, but are limited. Preregister a unit and times to by contacting Elk's Nature Center staff at 507-387-8585.

[Learn more.](#)

Well-qualified employees serve Mankato citizens

Initiative and effort are commendable qualities in employees who achieve advanced licensure.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Mankato Area Public Schools' East High School
2600 Hoffmann Road, Mankato

There is no cost for admission or parking. For more information, or to accommodate special needs, contact the [Kearney International Center](#) at Minnesota State University, Mankato at 507-389-1281.

Mankato Police Explorers/Boy Scouts of America to host youth fundraisers

The Mankato Police Explorers/Boy Scouts of America Exploring Post #243 will host two events to help raise funds to support youth members attending the annual Minnesota Law Enforcement Exploring Conference, where they will compete for college scholarships:

Sunday, April 3

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Busters, 1325 Madison Avenue

All you can eat, burgers and fries, \$6.50

Saturday, April 9

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pub 500, 500 South Front Street

All you can eat, breakfast, \$10

[Learn](#) more about the Mankato Police Explorers, a youth development program (9th grade through the age of 21) that provides training and practical experience teach and prepare youth for law enforcement careers.

For more information [contact](#) Officer Allen Schmidt at 507-420-0099, extension 3147.

Water main flushing begins May 1

The city of Mankato will flush water mains from Sunday, May 1 through Saturday, May 6. Flushing hours are scheduled during lower usage times from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily to ensure convenience for residents. [See](#) the water flushing schedule or [access](#) it online.

Water mains are routinely flushed to clean the distribution system. Avoid or limit water usage during flushing operations, because although the water is safe to drink, it may stain. It is best to allow at least an hour after daily flushing operations for the water to clear.



Brandon Geldner, Matt Straub and John Nelson.

Utilities technicians Matt Straub, Brandon Geldner and John Nelson earned class

“D” certification as water supply system operators. Geldner and Neldon also earned class “D” certifications as wastewater treatment facility operators.

Help us help you; report potholes

Since it's pothole season, Mankato's public works crews are performing early spring pothole repairs to help maintain city streets. Once there's warmer weather, staff permanently repair potholes. “These repairs, also known as patches, are important since they help increase pavement life, preventing a need for more expensive maintenance,” said Jim Braunschauen, streets superintendent.

Citizens can help by reporting potholes using the city of Mankato's 24/7 services:

- Mankato's [online customer service](#) reporting
- 507-345-0600, a place for citizens to leave information on needed street repairs
- Give Mankato "[your take](#)" about needed street repairs on Mankato's website
- [Twitter.com](#)
- [Facebook.com](#)

[Learn](#) more about the city of Mankato's efforts in repairing potholes. For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Where to dispose of compost

Grass clippings, leaves, tree branches and other compostable materials may be taken to the SMC compost site, 57032 231st Lane, Mankato, at no charge for Mankato non-commercial residents. It's important to not dump grass clippings, leaves or other items into or along ravine areas because it can saturate and kill vegetation, which contributes to ravine destabilization.

For more information contact the compost site at 507-388-3122.

Victorian tea party at the R.D. Hubbard House

For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8660 (24-hour service) or 507-387-8663.

Capture Mankato's places and spaces



A view from above by Christy Freeberg, Mankato.

Enter Mankato's 2012 photo contest for the chance to be featured in city of Mankato communication projects. Photos of Mankato places and spaces are encouraged to help showcase

Mankato's quality of life. Everyone is welcome to participate. Entry forms are available [online](#). [Learn](#) more about the contest, and see photo winners over the past few years.

For more information about Mankato's annual photo contest or to receive a city calendar, [contact](#) Mankato's public information staff at 507-387-8692.

How to discharge sump pumps

Do what's right for the environment, be a good neighbor and avoid costly penalties by discharging sump pumps in a proper manner. [Learn](#) how.

For more information [contact](#) community development staff at 507-387-8620.

Connect with local government

The city of Mankato, the City Council and City Manager Patrick Hentges are on Facebook. Become a [Facebook](#) fan and connect with local government and officials. Residents can also follow the city of Mankato on [Twitter](#).

For more information, [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8692.

Make a green choice and save

Sign up to pay city of Mankato utility bills with the city's online and electronic bill pay options to save costs



Sign up and save with Mankato's

Victorian tea party

The Blue Earth County Historical Society will host a Victorian tea party at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday, April 16 at St. John's

Episcopal Church, 302 Warren

Street, followed by tours of the historic R.D. Hubbard House. Guests will also have the opportunity to see people dressed in Victorian style clothing, participate in a silent auction and do crafts with their children.



Twilight at Hubbard House by Jack Madsen, Good Thunder.

Tickets costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for Blue Earth County Historical Society members, \$5 for children ages 5 to 17 and no cost for children less than five. All proceeds go to the R.D. Hubbard House restoration, including a new roof, exterior paint of the carriage house, repainting the fence and creating a historical interpretation of the building's interior.

Tour guide training

Tour guides are needed for the R.D. Hubbard House. Tour guides share the living story of the Hubbard family through guided tours of the historic mansion to the general public and school groups. If interested in volunteering as a tour guide, contact Blue Earth County Historical Society staff at 507-345-5566. Training will be provided at 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 5 and 2 p.m., Saturday, April 9.

Since 1938, the City of Mankato has owned the R.D. Hubbard House and assisted the Blue Earth County Historical Society with maintenance. For more information about the R.D. Hubbard House contact [Blue Earth County Historical Society](#) staff at 507-345-5566.

An easy way to file a police report

Mankato's online police reporting feature is a quick and easy way to report criminal damage to property, harassing phone calls, lost property, theft, theft from a vehicle, or to report or provide information to law enforcement staff. [Learn](#) more.

For more information [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-387-8795.

and help the environment. *online and electronic bill pay options.*
Residents who sign up will save:

- \$2 each month by using electronic fund transfer.
- \$1 each month by using the city's paperless billing option.

To sign up, contact city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8600, or [complete](#) an online application and mail to:

City of Mankato
Water Billing
Intergovernmental Center
10 Civic Center Plaza
P.O. Box 3368
Mankato, MN 56002-3368

For more information, [contact](#) city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8600.

Plan your next event at the Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion



The Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion in the Land of Memories Park, 300 Amos Owen Lane.

The Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion provides a unique setting for any event. The pavilion overlooks the Land of Memories Park, 300 Amos Owen Lane. Features include scenic views, a deck, tables and chairs,

sink, counters and heat and air conditioning.

[Learn](#) more about the Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion. For more information or to make a reservation [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Mankato's city bus – your destination on time

Mankato's city bus is convenient, reliable and affordable transportation that gets riders to their destination on time. Riding the bus also helps to

Upcoming events at the Verizon Wireless Center



[Dierks Bentley](#)
7 p.m., Thursday,
April 21

[Greater Mankato
Growth Business
Showcase](#)
Tuesday, April 12

Calm before the storm by Theodore Jacobsen, Mankato.

[Senior Expo](#)

9 a.m., Tuesday, May 17

[Arts by the River](#)

Saturday, June 11 through Sunday, June 12

For more information [contact](#) civic center staff at 507-389-3000. [Sign up](#) for EventMail to receive upcoming Verizon Wireless Center event information.

Elk's Nature Center events

Save the date for April events at Elk's Nature Center:

Rock and Mineral Day

Saturday, April 16
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn more about rocks and minerals at this event. Activities help to meet badge requirements for boy and girl scouts.

Shrubs for the home landscape

Thursday, April 21
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost: \$9

Learn about the best choice of shrubs for different situations in the home landscape. Discussions will be focused on shrubs best suited for foundation plantings, flowering capabilities, hedges and windbreaks and wildlife habitat. Each participant will receive a color-photo booklet showing many shrubs which are well adapted to southern Minnesota landscapes. Register online at www.mankatocer.com.

Minnesota Native Plants for the landscape

Tuesday, April 26
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost: \$9

Interest in the native plant species has grown as people

use less gas, saves travel time and helps reduce congestion.

Learn more about Mankato's buses and see routes [online](#), or call 507-625-RIDE (7433).



Mankato's city bus. Call 507-625-RIDE (7433).

Have your ad seen throughout Mankato by advertising on a city bus. For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8655.

become more concerned for the natural environment. There are a variety of plants that grow naturally in Minnesota habitats. Topics included the qualities of native trees and shrubs, the herbaceous prairie and woodland plants, which can readily adapt to the home landscape. These plants are hardy and offer a more natural alternative to the homeowner or gardener. Register online at www.mankatocer.com.

Preschool nature hour

11 a.m., Fridays

For more information about events at Elk's Nature Center, [contact](#) staff at 507-387-8585 or 507-387-8501.

24-hour city services

Public safety: 911

Customer service [online](#)

Graffiti hotline: 507-387-8610

Street maintenance request: 507-345-0600

[File](#) a police report online

Compost site: 507-388-3122

Recycle center: 507-388-1157

Water: 507-387-8661

[Editor](#)

507-387-8692

Printable PDF file

