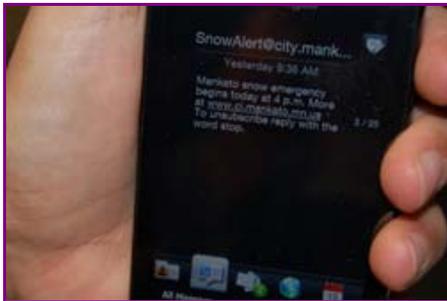




Volume 8: Edition 12, December 2010

[Print the Newsletter](#)

Avoid towing -- sign up for Mankato's snow emergency alerts



Be one of the first to know about Mankato's snow emergencies. Sign up today.

One of Mankato's goals is to minimize, or ideally, eliminate towing. Be one of the first to know about Mankato snow

emergencies by [subscribing](#) to receive snow emergency alerts by text message. Additional ways to learn all the latest about snow emergencies in Mankato:

- [Subscribe](#) to receive city news updates by email.
- [Subscribe](#) to receive notifications about Mankato's snow emergency messages on Facebook.
- [Subscribe](#) to Mankato's snow emergency messages on Twitter.
- Telephone Mankato's snow emergency line at 507-387-9001, 24-hour service.

[Learn](#) more about Mankato's snow and ice control efforts. Be on the lookout for a new City Update featuring Mankato's snow emergency information to begin airing on public access television (channels 12-Charter or 10-HickoryTech) in December.

For more information about signing up for snow emergency alerts [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8692.

What is your take about Mankato's 2011 budget?

[Preview](#) information about the city of Mankato's [2011 budget](#). Provide "[your take](#)" about Mankato's 2011 budget.

Mankato City Council approves

City calendar is now available thanks to Wickersham Health Campus sponsorship



Winter on Broad Street by Erick Raygor, Lake Crystal, is featured in the 2011 calendar during March.

[Mankato's 2011 city calendar](#) will be distributed the November 30 issue of "Home Magazine." The calendar is also available [online](#).

Mankato's city calendar, a 41-year tradition, is a useful communication tool to convey public meeting dates and locations, city service contact information, 24-hour service numbers and important key messages about the services Mankato provides to residents. The photo contest encourages citizen involvement and showcases Mankato's quality of life, spaces and places.

Thank you to the Wickersham Health Campus--the [Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic](#), [Mankato Clinic](#) and the [Mankato Surgery Center](#) for partnering to sponsor the 2011 calendar. Without this sponsorship, printing of the calendar could not continue.



Enter Mankato's 2012 city calendar photo contest.

Now's a great time to capture winter photos of Mankato's places and spaces. [Download](#) an entry form.

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

Be a positive influence on a teenager

Did you know that the influence of parents and

cost savings measure

As a 2011 City of Mankato budget balancing strategy, the City Council has approved furloughs for non-union employees. The City of Mankato is committed to delivering city services and serving the growing regional center while working to ensure a stable financial outlook and maintaining a stable tax rate.

In an effort to reduce costs, the Mankato City Council has approved a furlough for all non-union employees from Monday, December 27 through Thursday, December 30. City of Mankato services, such as police, fire, utilities, street maintenance and snow plowing, will continue to be provided during this time.

For more information, [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8516.

Chilly fun for everyone

Mankato ice rinks are expected to be ready for use by the time area schools are released for winter breaks. Two weeks of temperatures around zero degrees are needed to build a good base ice (about six inches). Once the base ice is ready, parks staff can build the finishing ice. Hockey rinks feature a push-button lighting system for electrical efficiency and a full set of hockey boards at Stoltzman Road, Alexander Park and Thomas parks. General skating is also available.

Where to skate

Alexander Park (lighted)
900 Main Street

- hockey rink
- general ice skating rink

Dotson Park
1010 Oak Knoll Boulevard

- general ice skating rink

Erlandson Park
101 North Belmont Drive

- general ice skating rink

Stoltzman Road Park (lighted)
521 West Pleasant Street

- hockey rink
- general ice skating rink

Thomas Park (lighted)



Officer Tom Rother.

adults on a teenager is greater than that of a youth's peers? Experts teach us that young people rank parents, family members and caring adults among the top reasons for not using alcohol; in fact they rank them higher than friends and peer pressure.

[Download](#) and listen to public safety's message.

Keep the wreath bright...prevent a red light

The Mankato Department of Public Safety's "Keep the wreath bright...prevent a red light" campaign is running through January 1. The goal of this effort is to prevent a red light bulb from being placed at the wreath at Fire Station 1, 300 Madison Avenue, because a red bulb means that firefighters have responded to a structure fire. Following are some helpful safety tips:

Safe behavior

- Place working smoke alarms throughout the home.
- Keep the fire hydrant nearest to a residence clear of snow and ice.

General safety

- Water holiday trees often. A dry tree can be consumed by fire in an instant and create enough heat to ignite an entire room.
- After parties, check wastebaskets and furniture for smoldering items.
- Turn off or unplug lights before going to bed or leaving home. Don't overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets or across doorways.

Candle safety

- Place candles on a steady surface in sturdy, noncombustible holders that won't tip over. Make sure holders are large enough to catch candle drippings.
- Put candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Keep candles away from books, paper, decorations or anything that can burn.
- Don't use candles during a power outage; carrying a lit candle is very risky.

100 Thomas Park Court

- hockey rink (Mankato Area Hockey Association priority use)

Ice rinks are available for use at no cost. No hockey is allowed on general ice skating rinks. For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Help us help you

Now that wintery weather is here, it's a great time to adopt a fire hydrant to help keep it clear of snow. Doing so helps firefighters during an emergency event by giving them efficient access to the hydrant.

Residents can also help to keep sidewalks safe by keeping them shoveled. Not only can this benefit the public's safety, it is also required under Mankato's [city code](#).

For more information about adopting a fire hydrant, [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-387-8577. To learn more about sidewalk snow removal [contact](#) engineering staff at 507-387-8634.

Battery donation helps firefighters share smoke detector safety messages

Energizer donated more than 600 nine volt batteries for smoke detectors to the Mankato Department of Public Safety. Firefighters will be distributing these batteries as they are out talking with residents and when they respond to service calls.

"This is a great opportunity to meet with residents in our community and to make sure that their smoke detectors are fully operational," said Trudy Kunkel, acting deputy director. "Smoke detectors have saved lives."

Kunkel said it's important to change their batteries at least twice a year. A good time to do this is when clocks are changed during daylight savings time.

For more information [contact](#) Trudy Kunkel, acting deputy director, at 507-387-8792.

Go green and save

Mankato's [online utility billing service](#)

- Make sure to extinguish candles when leaving a room or go to sleep.

Heating hazards

- Keep fixed and portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have furnaces and chimneys inspected once a year.
- Keep fireplace fires small and use a protective screen to prevent flying sparks. Don't burn holiday wrappings in a fireplace; it can spark a chimney fire.
- Remove ashes using a metal container and store outside away from the house.

For more information [contact](#) Trudy Kunkel, acting deputy director, at 507-387-8792.

Recycling your Christmas tree in Mankato is easy

Beginning Sunday, December 26 and continuing through Monday, January 10, trees may be brought to Erlandson Park,



Take advantage of Mankato's Christmas tree recycling opportunity.

Highland Park, Tourtellotte Park and Sibley Park. Christmas tree recycling is a value-added opportunity to Mankato's garbage and recycling service. Recycled trees are used as mulch in Mankato's parks. Before recycling your tree don't forget to:

- Remove all wire and metal ornaments.
- Remove all tree stands.
- Remove plastic bags from trees and take bags home.

Another option available to Mankato residents is the SMC Compost Site, 57032 231st Lane. Christmas trees during are accepted Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This service is available at no cost for Mankato residents. For more information call 507-388-3122.

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

Volunteer to be one Mankato's bravest

helps customers save money and help the environment. Residents who sign up will:

- save \$2 each month by signing up to have utility bill paid using electronic fund transfer.
- save \$1 each month by using the city's paperless billing option.



Sign up for Mankato's online utility billing today.

Signing up is easy. Simply [contact](#) city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8672, or fill out 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 507-387-8672.

Mankato's bus -- your destination on time



Mankato's city bus is convenient, reliable and affordable.

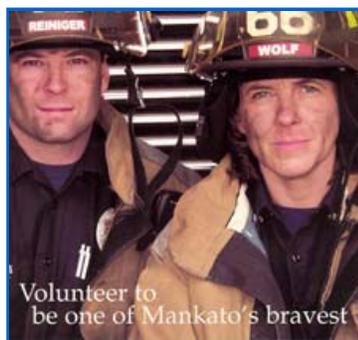
Mankato's city bus is convenient, reliable and affordable. Learn more about Mankato's city buses online or call 507-625-RIDE (7433).

Advertise on a city bus to have your ad seen throughout

Mankato. For more information contact [Mark Anderson](#), mass transit superintendent, at 507-387-8655.

City service information at your fingertips

Looking for a Mankato city service but not quite sure where to find it? Check out Mankato's [Services A to Z](#) listing online. For more information [contact](#) public



Apply to be a volunteer firefighter. Learn more by calling 507-387-8792.

Apply to serve as a volunteer firefighter with the city of Mankato. Benefits include training opportunities and retirement.

To be eligible, applicants must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED and a Minnesota

driver's licence. In addition, they must pass a medical physical, a physical ability test and have a background check.

Applications are due by Friday, December 31. If interested in applying, or for more information [contact](#) Trudy Kunkel, acting deputy director, at 507-387-8792.

Dates to keep in mind

The city of Mankato offices will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Sunday, January 2. Since Christmas Day (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1) both fall on a Saturday, garbage and recycling collection will not be affected.

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

Upcoming events at the Verizon Wireless Center

[Mannheim Steamroller](#)
Tuesday, December 7

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs. University of Minnesota](#)
Friday, December 3 through Saturday, December 4

[8th Annual Goldsmith Reunion & Holiday Art Show](#)
Friday, December 10 through Sunday, December 12

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs. University of North Dakota](#)
Friday, December 10 through Saturday, December 11

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs. American International](#)
Friday, January 7 through Saturday, January 8

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs. Denver](#)
Friday, January 14 through Saturday, January 15

information staff at 507-387-8692.



Click the image above to see the employees being recognized.

Recognizing city employees

Since employees are one of the city's most valuable assets, the city of Mankato is pleased to honor employees for their years of dedicated and valuable service to Mankato residents.

[Farm Toy Show](#)

Saturday, January 29 through Sunday, January 30

Sign up for [EventMail](#) to receive information about upcoming Verizon Wireless Center events.

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
- Snow emergencies: 507-387-9001
- Water: 507-387-8661

[Editor](#)

507-387-8692

