



Volume 8: Edition 7, July 2010

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## Citizens connect at Night to Unite Tuesday, August 31

**Citizens Connect at NIGHT to UNITE!**

**SAVE the DATE** Tuesday, August 31  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Night to Unite provides an opportunity for people to:

- Build community by getting to know their neighbors
- Engage with the city service team to help us help you
- Raise crime prevention awareness to keep neighborhoods safe

Hosting a Night to Unite event is an opportunity to spend the evening outside with neighbors and city staff. Some event ideas include:

- block parties
- cookouts
- parades
- flashlight walks
- contests
- youth activities

Sign up today to host a Night to Unite event. It's easy.

For more information or to register, contact city staff at 507-387-8790.

Registration forms are available online at [www.mankato-mn.gov/National-Night-Out/Page.aspx](http://www.mankato-mn.gov/National-Night-Out/Page.aspx).

[www.ci.mankato.mn.us](http://www.ci.mankato.mn.us)

*Citizens connect at Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 31. Register today to host an event. Call 507-387-8791.*

The city of Mankato is celebrating the Minnesota Night to Unite event from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, August 31 in addition to the statewide event, which is held the first Tuesday in August. The date change was made in order to provide students from local universities the opportunity to participate in the event.

Make sure to save the date Tuesday, August 31, and register to host a Night to Unite neighborhood gathering. This evening provides an opportunity for people to:

- Build community by getting to know their neighbors.
- Engage with the city service team to help us help you.
- Raise crime prevention awareness to keep neighborhoods safe.

Sign up to host a neighborhood event and join other

## Governor Pawlenty appoints Mark Knoff, Mankato's director of public works, to Clean Water Council



*Mark Knoff, Mankato's director of public works.*

Gov. Tim Pawlenty has appointed Mark Knoff, Mankato's director of public works, to the state's Clean Water Council.

Knoff, who has a doctorate from Purdue University, is responsible for Mankato's wastewater treatment and water treatment plants, transportation services, infrastructure, parks, and garbage and recycling collection. Knoff, a registered professional engineer, has close to three years of service with the city of Mankato. He previously served as the public works director for the city of Faribault. He is retired from the United States Air Force, where he served as a helicopter pilot and an engineering instructor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

"We're very supportive of Mark's opportunity to be a member of the Clean Water Council," said City Manager Patrick Hentges. "Mankato strives to be a good environmental steward and has taken major strides in environmental sustainability and has become an industry leader in the region and statewide."

Mankato leads the way in:

- **Biosolids:** Mankato was elected first in Minnesota and 28th in the nation to receive a national biosolids partnership certification. Biosolids are generated through Mankato's wastewater treatment efforts and have a

Mankato neighborhoods to spend the evening outside with neighbors and city staff. Some event ideas include: block parties, flashlight walks, cookouts, contests, parades and youth activities.

For more information or to register, contact public safety [staff](#) at 507-387-8791. Submit [registration forms](#) anytime before Tuesday, August 24.

## Mankato takes proactive approach to the emerald ash borer



*City staff are being proactive and preparing for the emerald ash borer. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.*

Mankato's public works staff, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, has placed about 20 [emerald ash borer detection traps](#) in various parks throughout Mankato to monitor for this invasive pest. Currently, the emerald ash borer, which only attacks ash trees, has not been found in Mankato, but it has been found in St. Paul, Minn. and has crept into southeast Minnesota, according to Brian Hagberg, city forester.

"This causes concern because these areas are pretty close to Mankato," Hagberg said. "Mankato has a lot of ash trees — 2,000 along city boulevards — and this insect can cause extensive damage to them. We are being proactive by using these detection traps to help minimize the impact the emerald ash borer can cause to our forests."

What's important to note is that the traps, sticky purple triangular boxes that hang from trees, are being used as detection tools. Their placement does not indicate that the trees are infested. Hagberg said the traps will be monitored regularly throughout the summer when the beetles are active.

"Our hope is to not find any evidence that the emerald ash borer is here," Hagberg said.

Hagberg adds that there are ways citizens can also be proactive. He recommends the following:

nutrient value that is beneficial to the environment and is in great demand among farmers who use them as fertilizer because of their same results.

- **Water treatment:** Mankato implemented a \$40 million upgrade to the water treatment plant, which included installing state-of-the-art ultrafiltration membrane technology. This technology virtually eliminates cryptosporidium, to provide extremely safe drinking water.
- **Wastewater treatment:** The treated water the city discharges into the Minnesota River is nearly pollution-free for regulated parameters. The facility received the Governor's MNGreat Award for this effort. In partnership with Calpine Corporation and Black and Veatch, it also earned the Project of the Year Award from the Minnesota chapter of the American Public Works Association.

"I'm looking forward to serving in this capacity on behalf of the city of Mankato and addressing clean water issues," Knoff said.

## Healthy and green study launches at Orness Plaza

Mankato's Orness Plaza leads the way as the first in the nation to be selected for a study of healthy and green rehabilitation and its effect on the elderly.



*Mankato's Orness Plaza is the first building in the nation to be selected for a national study on a building's impact on the health of seniors.*

"This study will help us get a better handle on housing for seniors," said Dr. David Jacobs, director of research for the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH).

Dr. L. Peter Bast, office of the director for the Minneapolis Housing and Urban Development office touched on the impact this could have on viewing health through the context of housing. "We know that health costs associated with inadequate

- **Diversify** trees when planting them. Look for what is growing naturally in the area because these are the types of trees that will do well. Some trees to consider are elms, linden and oak.
- When camping, only **burn wood that is purchased from the campground**. Bringing in wood can help spread pests such as the emerald ash borer, other tree pests and diseases.
- **Use firewood with no bark** because it is safer than firewood with bark.

“The city is doing its part to help diversify trees in the area as well,” Hagberg said. “Doing so helps to protect Mankato’s urban forest, which adds to our quality of life.”

### How the emerald ash borer detection trap works

The emerald ash borer is attracted to the intense purple color as well as the scent of the Manuka oil placed inside. The oil mimics the hormones a tree releases during stress. Once the emerald ash borer lands on the sticky substance it is immobilized.

An emerald ash borer notification and survey sign will be placed with each trap to communicate what the trap is for and to issue a warning that the adhesive on the trap sticks to fingers and stains clothes. The sign also gives contact information to report a fallen trap.

The emerald ash borer only attacks ash trees. Ash tree identification information is available [online](#). The typical pattern of crown decline caused by the emerald ash borer is the top one-third dying first and then progressing down the tree.

There is no cost to the city of Mankato for participating in this survey. For questions or more information contact public works [staff](#), at 507-387-8649 or review Minnesota Department of Agriculture information [online](#).

## What’s “Your Take” on the emerald ash borer?

City staff is monitoring for the emerald ash borer by placing detection traps in several Mankato parks. What’s “[Your Take](#)” about preparing and responding to the emerald ash borer?

housing are largely hidden,” Bast said. “What’s exciting about this project is that it will help improve the health of those who live here.”

The planned \$10 million renovation will:

- Greatly improve energy efficiency following Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards.
- Modernize housing units by providing healthy finishes and additional storage.
- Include a fitness center and more community spaces.
- Provide important research data on the impact of a building on the health of residents. Findings will be used to help make recommendations for green housing.

Jacobs, Bast and other housing officials complimented city staff for their efforts on this project and credited them for playing key roles in making it happen.

“Having the only study of this type in the country take place at Orness Plaza is a great complement to our renovation process and an honor for the city of Mankato,” said City Manager Patrick Hentges. “What’s of utmost importance is the ability for the residents to have improved health by living in this newly renovated building.”

For more information contact Mankato housing [staff](#) at 507-387-8623.

## Talamantz receives award



*Tony Talamantz, infrastructure superintendent, coming out of a manhole--the gateway to Mankato's infrastructure.*

Tony Talamantz, utilities infrastructure superintendent, was awarded the 2010 Golden Manhole Society (GMS) award. The GMS is a

professional society formed through the efforts of the Water Environment’s Association Collection System Committee. Members of the GMS must exhibit significant contributions and positively contribute to the betterment of individuals in water distribution systems or wastewater collection

## Stay safe while walking



*When crossing Mankato streets, pedestrians should be sure to look both ways, follow signal lights and ensure that the driver is looking at them. Photo by Rosemary Stam, Riverfront from Ramp.*

When the weather is warm, more people want to spend time walking outdoors whether it is going to work, for health, socialization, or just for fun. Like

most other activities, there are precautions pedestrians need to take to ensure they stay safe.

“Accidents are horrific,” said Commander Amy Vokal. “It is very tough on first responders. An officer’s heart sinks when they hear of an accident involving a car and a pedestrian. Rarely do we have a person who walks away with no injuries.”

A few of the ways pedestrians can stay safe is by using the crosswalks at intersections and obeying the crosswalk signals. When the signals start to flash not to walk, pedestrians should not cross the street because vehicles have the right of way. It is best to wait until the signals flash that it is okay to cross.

### Having a stake in personal safety

Another rule that often comes to mind is that pedestrians always have the right of way, according to Vokal. This is true if the person is already in the crosswalk. In this case, vehicles do have to stop, but pedestrians should never take that chance. A good rule of thumb is for pedestrians to make eye contact with the driver so they know that the driver does see them.

Vokal advises that before stepping in a crosswalk, pedestrians should consider how light it is outside. The light during dusk and dawn makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. Avid walkers may also want to invest in a reflective vest to help drivers see them.

“It’s more than just looking both ways when crossing the street,” Vokal said. “Pedestrians need to use caution. The vehicles will have the upper hand because of their size. Even injuries such as road rash can be bad enough that a person needs to have skin grafts.”

systems.

The award was presented to Talamantez recently from the Central States Water Environment Association.

“I take a lot of pride in my work, so I’m very excited to receive this award,” Talamantez said. “The people I work with are the ones who made this award possible.”

Talamantez’s work focuses on the city’s underground infrastructure. Manholes are the gateways that allow Talamantez and other staff access to this infrastructure to perform utility maintenance or repair work.

Talamantez has served the city of Mankato for 28 years with exceptional leadership and outstanding effort put forth in his area of expertise.

“The award he received was well deserved, ” said Mark Knoff, director of public works. “It’s great the city of Mankato has such a quality individual.”

## Elk's Nature Center programming is back; volunteers needed

Weekly programming is back at [Elk’s Nature Center](#) in Rasmussen Woods, 555 Stoltzman Road, thanks to a partnership between the city of Mankato and Minnesota State University, Mankato’s recreation, parks and leisure services department.



*Volunteer at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods, 555 Stoltzman Road.*

The nature center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays throughout the summer. Programs will be provided for minimal to no cost. See the [calendar](#), [weekly opportunities and children’s programming](#).

Volunteers are needed to assist with programming by sharing their expertise and skill with the community and to help with development of indoor

Learn more about pedestrian safety and laws [online](#).

For more information about crosswalk safety, contact Mankato public safety [staff](#) at 507-387-8780.

## Do your part



*Streets free of clutter help city sweepers better clean the streets.*

Mankato residents are asked to do their part to help keep Mankato looking its best by keeping lawns mowed and placing garbage and recycle bins on

the curb.

### Keep lawns mowed

Property owners whose lawns or weeds exceed 12 inches high will have a sign placed on their lawn and receive a letter giving them 10 days to comply with [city code](#). Lawns not in compliance will be mowed and the property owner will be billed.

### Garbage and recycle bins

Make sure to place [garbage and recycle bins on the curb](#). Doing so enables city staff to do their work to repair streets and keep them clean.

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

## Snap to it: Send in photos for 2011 city calendar photo contest

Let the photographer in you shine through by entering Mankato's 2011 city calendar photo contest. Winning photos will be featured in the city calendar and the top two will be enlarged,

and outdoor activities. See [volunteer opportunities](#).

For more information about programming or volunteering, please contact Elk's Nature Center [staff](#) between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday at 507-387-8585.

## Plan to attend this year's fireworks show

Celebrate the fourth of July at Mankato's [Riverfront Park](#), 310 West Rock Street, at 10 p.m., Sunday, July 4. Festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. with music by the Murphy Brothers band.

In preparation for the show, city staff held a test run and launched two firework shells to get public input on this new location. Comments have been good. One resident noted that she had a great view, and another stated that she was able to see most of the fireworks from her location. One resident did comment that he could not get a good view of the fireworks because of some trees, but was glad that the city conducted the test run.

"We appreciate the input because it helps us get a better understanding of what people in various locations can see," said City Manager Patrick Hentges.

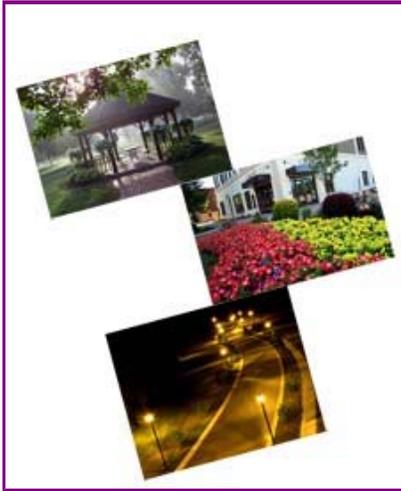
[Parking is available and is easy](#) at Riverfront Park. There will be a shuttle bus to provide transportation from the west side of the Verizon Wireless Civic Center to the park entrance and from the park to the parking area.

For more information contact Mankato's civic center [staff](#) at 507-389-3000.

## Mankato's wastewater treatment plant featured in magazine



Mankato's wastewater treatment plant was featured in "Treatment Plant Operator," a trade magazine for municipal water professionals, which



Past city calendar winners (top to bottom): Foggy morning in beautiful Sibley Park by Jeri Clement, Mankato; City Center blooms by Terri DeGezelle, Mankato; Lighting your way on Sibley Parkway by Erick Raygor, Lake Crystal.

framed and placed on the walls of the Intergovernmental Center.

Photos may also be selected for a People’s Choice Award, or be named an Honorable Mention. All photos selected may be featured in a variety of city communications pieces, with a credit line given to

the photographer.

**Contest guidelines:**

- Photographs are accepted year round and must be taken within Mankato city limits within the past two years.
- Entries of identifiable Mankato places and spaces are encouraged. Entries are limited to 15 submissions.
- Each person is eligible to win once.
- Digital photos (at least 300 dpi) are preferred, but actual print photographs are accepted.

Digital photos may be sent to [efiedler@city.mankato.mn.us](mailto:efiedler@city.mankato.mn.us). Please include information on the [entry form](#) with the submission. For print photographs, attach an [entry form](#) to each submission and send to:

City of Mankato—Public Information Office  
 Intergovernmental Center  
 10 Civic Center Plaza  
 Mankato, MN 56001

Photos must be submitted by 4:30 p.m., Friday, August 27, 2010.

Thank you to the [Wickersham Health Campus](#), including 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.

Mankato’s wastewater treatment plant was featured in "Treatment Plant Operator."

highlighted how the plant is a good

example of recycling at its best.

The article discussed how city staff used treated effluent and stone rubble from a recent plant upgrade to create a scenic pond with a waterfall that provides a welcoming view for plant staff and visitors.

Like the stones, the effluent used in the pond has been recycled. Mankato’s water reclamation facility provides advanced wastewater treatment.

This means the effluent as well as the treated wastewater Mankato discharges in the Minnesota River is virtually-pollution free, making Mankato a state leader in meeting wastewater quality standards. An added benefit is that using recycled water protects the community’s ground water resources.

For more information about Mankato's wastewater treatment plant, or to schedule a tour, contact [Mary Fralish](#), deputy director of public works and environmental services, at 507-387-8665.

**Reserve the Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion**



Reserve the Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion, Amos Owen Lane, for gatherings and events. Call 507-387-8649.

Book an event or gathering at the [Floyd Roberts, Jr. Pavilion](#) in the Land of Memories Park, Amos Owen Lane.

The pavilion’s amenities include a deck, sink, electrical outlets, counters, heat and indoor restrooms. Its unique location provides scenic views overlooking the park and river. To tour the facility online, go to the [Floyd Roberts, Jr. Pavilion](#) page and click on view slideshow.

For more information on rental fees and building use or to reserve the multi-purpose room, contact Mankato’s public works [staff](#) at 507-387-8649.

**Stay cool at Tourtellotte Pool**

Watch Mankato's City Update about the contest the following dates and times on CCTV public access channels 10 (HickoryTech) and 12 (Charter):

Sundays at 8:15 p.m.  
 Mondays at 6:15 a.m.  
 Tuesdays at 7:15 a.m.  
 Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.  
 Thursdays at 4:15 p.m.  
 Fridays at 7:15 p.m.  
 Saturdays at 11:15 a.m.

For more information contact Mankato's public information [staff](#) at 507-387-8692. See [Mankato's 2010 City Calendar](#).

## Mankato's city bus—your destination on time



*Ride the bus with us. Call 625-RIDE (7433). RIDE (7433).*

Mankato's city bus offers convenient, reliable and affordable transportation. Learn more about Mankato's city buses [online](#) or call 507-625-

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

## Missing a pet?

Mankato's [Lost Pets](#) page features dogs and cats found wandering Mankato streets that are now in the city's animal impound, 903 Park Lane. Staff attempt to reunite pets and their owners by:

- Locating owners through license or veterinarian tags on the animal.
- Reviewing missing animal reports.
- Posting required notices at the Law Enforcement Center, 710 South Front Street.
- Posting the animal's information on Lost Pets.
- Answering owners' inquiries.

Make Tourtellotte Pool, 300 Mabel Street, your destination to cool off during these hot summer days. Children age six and under can enjoy the wading pool (with parent/guardian). Others can jump into the Olympic-sized pool, which also has a dive well. See [pool pass rates and admission information](#).

The pool is also available for private rental. Rent the main pool for \$75 per hour, or the wading pool for \$15 per hour. For more information, contact [staff](#) at 507-387-7946 (Tourtellotte Pool) or at the Mankato YMCA at 507-387-8255.

For more information about other Mankato parks and amenities contact [staff](#) at 507-387-8649.

## Upcoming events at the Verizon Wireless Center

Fourth of July fireworks in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Sunday, July 4  
 7:30 p.m. music by the Murphy Brothers Band  
 10 p.m. fireworks begin

[Brandon Scott Sellner](#) at Wednesdays in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Wednesday, July 7

[Citizen Cope](#) at [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Sunday, July 11

[Mary Guentzel Quintet](#) at Wednesdays in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Wednesday, July 14

[Mankato Community Band](#) at Wednesdays in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Wednesday, July 21

[Amy Korteum and her Celtic Band](#) at Wednesdays in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Wednesday, July 28

[Hickory Street Ribfest](#) in [Riverfront Park](#)  
 Thursday, August 5 through Sunday, August 8

## Dates to keep in mind

City of Mankato offices will be closed Monday, July 5. Although city offices are closed, garbage and recycling service will not be affected.

Animals are kept for five business days. To report a missing pet, call 507-387-8590, or email [lostpets@city.mankato.mn.us](mailto:lostpets@city.mankato.mn.us). Provide the pet's full description and owner contact information (phone numbers and email addresses).

For more information contact Mankato's public safety [staff](#) at 507-387-8590.

## 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](#)

[Editor](#)

507-387-8692



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