



Volume 9: Edition 9, September 2011

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## New online reservation system



Reserve the CHS Pergola or one of many other park amenities.

Now's a great time to reserve a camping site in Mankato's Land of Memories Park, off Highway 169, for Labor Day weekend.

It's easy to make reservations by

using the city of Mankato's new [online park reservation](#) feature to reserve a spot today. Also reservable are park shelters throughout the city, the Sibley Park gazebo, the CHS Pergola and the Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion, to name a few.

View facility schedules by month to see what's available in advance. All that's needed is a registered account. [See](#) a listing of Mankato's parks and amenities.

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

## How are the kids?



City park worker Dawn Christiansen holds the kids, Jack and Jill.

With all of the recent attention on the Sibley Farm goats, now is a great time to present the youngest animals at Sibley Farm: Jack and Jill. These two new additions were recently born.

"The fact that the kids were born here gives the public a great opportunity to watch them grow to adulthood," said Mark Knoff, director of public works. "This is something people wouldn't

normally see."

Sibley farm animals include alpacas, calves, goats, peacocks, horses, goats, pigs, lambs, chicks and

## Mankato City Council presents Ambassador Award to Blaine Cox



Mayor Eric Anderson presents the Ambassador Award to Blaine Cox. Also pictured (left to right) are Council members Jack Considine, Karen Foreman, Mike Laven and Mark Frost.

The Mankato City Council recognized Blaine Cox with an Ambassador Award for earning a gold medal in bowling at the International Special Olympics in Athens, Greece. Cox individually scored 471 points to earn the gold medal. He and his teammate (from New Jersey) earned a

team total of 991 points.

Cox earned a gold medal at state to advance to the International Special Olympics. While at state, Blaine also earned a gold medal in bocce ball. Cox lives in North Mankato, Minn. The city of Mankato is recognizing him in the spirit of "Leading the Way" by bringing honor and recognition to Mankato and the region, which helps put them on the map.

## Night to Unite snapshots

More than 40 neighborhood gatherings were held as part of Mankato's annual Night to Unite event. Night to Unite provides an opportunity for people to get to know those in their neighborhoods; build community involvement by bringing city officials and residents together; and raise crime prevention awareness.



Robert and Lorraine Smesrud visit with Commander Jeremy Clifton.



Jesse Pearson and Gregory Lessard talk with Casey McCabe, economic development specialist and Paul Vogel, community development director.

Mankato's Night to Unite event was scheduled to coincide with the return of college students to school

ducklings. Koi fish are in the pond.

Sibley farm is open from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.



*Sibley Farm at Sibley Park, 900 Park Lane, Mankato, Minn.*

## Water main flushing is September 25 through October 1

The city of Mankato will flush water mains from Sunday, September 25 through Saturday, October 1. Flushing hours are scheduled from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily to ensure convenience for residents.

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.

For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8661 (24-hour service) or 507-387-8663. [See](#) an interactive map.

## Police officer honored



*Police Officers Steven Hoppe and Doug Frericks.*

Pictured are Mankato Department of Public Safety Police Officers Steven Hoppe and Doug Frericks. Officer Hoppe recently received a National Law Enforcement Citation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart at their national convention in St. Paul. Officer Hoppe was one of eight officers nationally who received this citation, which is given to law enforcement officers and firefighters who are injured, wounded or killed while serving the public.

Officer Hoppe was nominated by a Blue Earth County deputy for his actions in an incident while apprehending an assault suspect who was combative and attempting to flee from officers.

Mankato Department of Public Safety Officer Doug Frericks also serves as a Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard member.

because they are an important part of the community. For more information [contact](#) city staff at 507-387-8692.

## Special play equipment coming to Mankato's parks



*A rendering of the playground for Wings Over White Oak.*

The Mankato City Council approved entering into an agreement with Mankato Area Concerns for Special Needs and Public Servants (SNAPS) to purchase playground equipment for Wings Over White Oak. In addition to being fully accessible, it is suitable for all abilities.

SNAPS has agreed to partner with the city of Mankato to fund the purchase and installation of adaptive playground equipment in the Wings Over White Oaks neighborhood. SNAPS was formed in 2010 to help organize Chili Fest, a fundraiser that benefits military veterans and Rett Syndrome research. SNAPS have also organized additional fundraisers for the Veterans' Memorial Place and awareness for Fallenstein Field in North Mankato.

The equipment is a "return" structure from Flagship Recreation. The structure has not been previously installed nor used at another location. Purchases add up to \$96,288. SNAPS agreed to provide \$41,288 over a four-year period; and the city of Mankato will prep the site. Charter bonds are the biggest funding source for the playground equipment.

Other parks moving forward as part of the 2011 park improvement projects are Trail Creek, Sibley Park and Southview.



*A rendering of the Trail Creek Park playground equipment.*

The Trail Creek equipment is also a "return" structure that has not been installed or used before. The original purchase price was \$49,000. Flagship Recreation has agreed to sell the structure to the city of Mankato for \$37,650. The equipment is accessible.

Since the construction of the farm at Sibley Park, the park and playground usage has dramatically increased. Within the last two years, a cow/calf barn and silo were added; however, this does not address the usage demand. This is phase one of the playground improvements for Sibley Park. Phase two will not

## Youth Voice in Local Government

move forward until a donor steps forward.

For grades 9-12—apply today



Encourage youth to take part in Youth Voice in Local Government.

Youth are encouraged to have a voice in local government by becoming a member of local boards and committees of the cities of Mankato and North Mankato, the counties of Blue Earth and Nicollet and Mankato Area Public Schools. It's easy-- apply [online](#) or contact Cheryl Hamond, YMCA, at 507-387-8255.

Generally, applicants should reside in the jurisdiction they are applying to serve. Committees typically meet monthly.

Citizen involvement is needed to maintain and enhance quality of life. Since youth are important community stakeholders, slots have been created on local government citizen committees so their voices can be heard. On many of the board and committee options, involvement includes budgeting and decision making.

Youth Voice in Local Government is a project of the Intergovernmental Youth Asset Committee, which serves the cities of Mankato and North Mankato, the counties of Blue Earth and Nicollet and Mankato Area Public Schools. This committee formed to make government recommendations in our area based on the Search Institute's 40 youth developmental assets to help youth grow up healthy, caring and responsible. National studies consistently show that the more assets young people have, the more likely they are to avoid risks and thrive.

## Being sustainable by using reclaimed water

One of Mankato's sustainability efforts includes using reclaimed water in Riverfront Park. By using the reclaimed water, the city of Mankato saved watering costs and also has the value-added benefit of using water twice.

Reclaimed water is used by the Mankato Energy Center



A rendering of the Sibley Park playground equipment.

Phase one elements will complement the existing structures. In fact, the structure will attach to the existing silo. These elements include play structures, installation and site prep with a budget of \$150,000, which is state contract pricing. The funding source for this project is FEMA alternate funds, which can be used for park capital improvements expenditures in Sibley and Land of Memories parks. Remaining FEMA funds will be used for riverbank stabilization and campground reconstruction.

City officials continue to work on options for Southview Park.

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

## Two new City Updates feature the Mankato Department of Public Safety



Mankato's green machine is efficient because it can reach areas that squad cars cannot.

"Public safety navigates for safety" is a City Update that focuses on the "green machine," a fuel-efficient and environmentally-friendly mini-vehicle.

Rather than buying another full-sized vehicle, public safety purchased the "green machine." Its small size enables it to reach areas that full-size squad cars cannot and helps increase visibility of Mankato's police officers, which helps them be more approachable.

Learn more about the "green machine" by watching City Update [online](#), on Facebook or on public access channels 10 (HickoryTech) and 12 (Charter):

- Sundays at 8:06 a.m.
- Mondays at 1:31 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 9 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 6:40 p.m.
- Thursdays at 2:35 p.m.
- Fridays at 6:45 a.m.
- Saturdays at 11 a.m.

and at the wastewater treatment plant to cool pumps, blowers and clean-up. In addition, the wastewater treatment plant will soon have a new disposal station with a fill spout so vehicles can be loaded with the reclaimed water to use for street sweeping, sod establishment and truck cleaning.

This effort aligns with Mankato's strategic plan to develop and maintain facilities that efficiently use resources and position employees for optimum service delivery.

For more information [contact](#) staff at 507-387-8665.

## Archery deer hunt begins October 15

*Proficiency test required to participate*

Bowhunters must pass a proficiency test to be considered for the deer hunt, which begins October 15 and goes through December 31. There is a \$20 testing fee. Proficiency testing will be held at Kiwanis Recreation Area on Highway 169:

- Friday, September 9, 3 p.m. to dark
- Saturday, September 10, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, September 12, 3 p.m. to dark



*Proficiency testing to be held September 9, 10 and 12.*

If willing to allow a deer stand on your private property within city limits (in the southern area of Mankato) call 507-387-8600 or 507-317-4251.

## Mankato's bus—your destination on time



*Ride the bus with us. Mankato's bus is your destination on time.*

call 507-625-RIDE (7433).

Ride the bus with us. Mankato's city bus is convenient, reliable and affordable transportation that gets riders to their destination on time. [Learn](#) more about Mankato's buses and see routes online, or

Featured in this City Update are Todd A. Miller, director of public safety, and LeAnn Sieberg, part-time police officer.



*Resident Tona Gillespie talks with Police Officer Tom Rother and Firefighter Dustin Icks.*

"Partnering to take responsibility for neighborhood safety" is a City Update that shares ways citizens can make a difference through neighborhood gatherings,

Neighborhood Watch, neighborhood associations and Night to Unite. These opportunities bring people together with city employees to identify and solve issues and preserve and enhance a community's livability.

Learn more about these opportunities by watching City Update [online](#), on Facebook, or on public access channels 10 (HickoryTech) or 12 (Charter):

- Sundays at 5:28 p.m.
- Mondays at 9:35 a.m.
- Tuesdays at 10:55 a.m.
- Wednesdays at 3:35 p.m.
- Thursdays at 10:38 p.m.
- Fridays at 1:38 p.m.
- Saturdays at 7:10 p.m.

Featured in this video is Todd A. Miller, director of public safety.

Another public safety effort in the works is building relationships with Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU). Deputy Director of Fire Jeff Bengtson, Police Commander Matt DuRose and Police Officers Doug Frericks and Sean McClinton will serve as liaisons to MSU to build partnerships, identify and solve problems and promote livability within the city.

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

## Upcoming events at the Verizon Wireless Center



*Riverfront Park by Theodore Jacobson, Mankato.*

[Miranda Lambert](#)  
7:30 p.m., Saturday,  
September 10

[John Hiatt](#) at  
[Riverfront Park](#)  
7 p.m., Friday,  
September 16

Advertise on a city bus. For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8655.

## Dates to keep in mind

City of Mankato offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, Labor Day.

There will be no garbage and recycling pickup on September 5. Monday's garbage and recyclables will be collected on Tuesday, September 6. Residential garbage and recycling pickup will be one day later. Since the holiday falls on Monday:

- Monday's garbage and recyclables will be collected Tuesday;
- Tuesday's garbage and recyclables will be collected Wednesday;
- Wednesday's garbage and recyclables will be collected Thursday;
- Thursday's garbage and recyclables will be collected Friday;
- Friday's garbage and recyclables will be collected Saturday.

The schedule will resume as normal the following week. For more information [contact](#) staff at 507-387-8600.

## 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. Follow the city of Mankato on [Twitter](#).

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

[The Jayhawks](#) at [Riverfront Park](#)  
Saturday, September 17

[Zonta Fashion show](#)  
4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 22

[Women's show](#)  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 24

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

## 24-hour city services

- Public safety: 911
- Customer service [online](#)
- Crime solvers tip line and graffiti hotline: 507-345-1023
- Street maintenance request: 507-345-0600
- [File](#) a police report online
- Water 507-387-8661

[Editor](#)  
507-387-8692

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