

Eyota City News

JUNE 2008

UPCOMING DATES

Summer News: New Full-time Deputy— Rabies Clinic—City Website—Summer Reminders

Additional Deputy in Eyota:

Beginning in late summer, a full time Olmsted County Deputy will split coverage time between the D-E School and the City.

This coverage is additional to regular patrol officers already covering Eyota.

Rabies Clinic:

**June 11, Wednesday:
5 to 8 pm**

At Eyota Veterinary Clinic, 127 South Front Street SW

\$15 each, dog or cat

Please bring dogs or cats on leash or in pet carrier.

Eyota Website:

New features on City website—

eyota.govoffice.com

History of Eyota

Includes vintage photos and story of Eyota's beginnings as a railroad town.

Chester Woods Trail

Progress toward creating a bike/walking trail from Eyota to Rochester. 2008 legislature granted funding to pave trail from Chester Woods to Rochester.

(Also, see page 3 of this newsletter.)

Eyota Firefighters

News from firefighters, participation in mock crash on May 1, 2008.

City announcements:

See "Notices to Citizens"



Summer Basics, p. 3

- Permits needed
- Residential mowing
- Unused vehicles
- Curfews for minors
- Sump pumps
- Swimming pools
- Pet clean-up, leashes
- Campfires
- ATVs on streets
- Truck/RV parking
- Park hours

MnDOT's Response:

No reduction of speed limit on Highway 42

A request from the City of Eyota for a reduction of the speed limit on Highway 42, has been declined.

A speed study was completed by MnDOT at three locations, surveying speeds of 354 cars. Turn-

offs along road are limited in number, each having turning lanes.

From 2003-2007 there was only one crash resulting in property damage.

The current prevailing speeds of cars and the

limited number of turn-offs were sited as reasons not to decrease the speed limit.

The current speed limit of 55 mph is viewed as "reasonable and safe."

Note: Passing on the right shoulder is illegal.

Summer Recreation Program:

June 16 to August 1
No activities June 30 to July 4.

Swim Bus on Thursdays,
June 12—Aug. 21
See 'City Departments'
on website for details.

Eyota Days 2008

July 14 to 20

Wednesday Church Night
Friday Family & Ag Night,
5K Run/Walk
Saturday 11 am parade &
Evening Dance
Sunday Classic Car Show

Prairie Fire Children's
Theatre Presents:

Peter Pan
August 7 & 8

Thursday at 7 pm
Friday at 7 pm
D-E H.S. Auditorium
Casting; 5:30 pm, Monday,
August 4

CONTACTING CITY HALL:

- Phone: 507-545-2135
- Fax: 507-545-2235
- Email:
echgov@hotmail.com
- Website: eyota.govoffice.com
- Marlis, Nancy, Iris, Brad & Joe

News from Mayor Wes Bussell—Inflow & Infiltration (I&I)

In 2007 the city's sewer collection system was cleaned and televised. Results showed 27,000 feet of bad and leaking sewer lines within the city and 81 leaky manholes.

To address these problems in 2008, repair and lining of most defective pipes located south of the railroad tracks will be completed. 81 manholes will be repaired. For 2009, City Council is forming plans to make extensive repairs in the Rena Belle Additions: installing a

sub drain system (for sump pump discharge) and making curb and gutter repairs.

These improvements are directed toward increasing the efficiency and capacity of the wastewater collection and treatment system. Our community's potential for future growth is impacted by finding solutions for



Rainwater is finding its way into our city sewer system..

these I&I issues. Protection of our community from flooding and sewer backups as well as decreasing sewer outflows into the sewer plant, are our goals.

The sewer system is a hidden utility that needs regular monitoring and maintenance just like any other city utility.

Dover, Eyota, St. Charles Sanitary Sewer District Update

A large and expensive wastewater treatment plant renovation, estimated to cost more than \$15 million, was stopped in 2007. The existing plant, located near St. Charles, serves three communities: Dover, Eyota, and St. Charles, and North Star Foods.

A new engineer and staff determined the expansion would not be needed. However, operational equipment updates and equipment will be needed to meet new dis-

charge requirements within the next few years. Moderate increases in sewer rates paid by the cities, effective May 1, 2008, should pay for

most updates and equipment with cash, excluding a couple of large items.

Two major components affecting the District Sewer Plant are infiltration and inflow (I&I) from the cities of Dover, Eyota, and St. Charles; and the discharge loadings from North Star Foods. If I&I are reduced by the Cities and loadings are reduced from North Star Foods, the future expansion needs of the District Plant will be minimized.

The May 1 increase in Eyota's sewer rates coincides with the DESC Sanitary Sewer District rate increase.

Ethanol Plant Update: Waiting for EAW Report

MinnErgy is proposing an ethanol plant located west of Eyota within Eyota Township. MinnErgy asked the Eyota City Council to participate in orderly annexation talks with Eyota Township to annex some 300 acres of land into the city. The proposed location is on the west side of the old rail spur line, located west of Eyota. Trees along the spur are a buffer between the city and the plant site.

Currently the City Council has not taken a formal stance regarding the

ethanol plant. We are waiting for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) from the State of Minnesota regarding this proposed plant. Once the EAW is received an ethanol study committee will be activated to study the EAW and other concerns outlined within a plan developed by Mayor Wes Bussell.

The City will keep residents informed about the proposed ethanol plant. Detailed public meetings will be

held once the EAW is received, to determine how the city and residents would be affected by the plant. Your input regarding this plant is very important. The process has been delayed due to further information requested by the state MPCA. MinnErgy is working through the permitting process, which will be followed by public hearings. We will inform you when they begin. MinnErgy website: www.MinnErgy.com

Public informational meeting regarding MinnErgy EAW:

June 19, Thursday, 7 pm at the Dover-Eyota H.S. *Questions answered by MPCA in open house format prior to meeting in school commons area.*



Summer Reminders to Residents of Eyota

Obtain building permits for:

Accessory buildings (any size), Fencing, Trees planted in city boulevard (area between street and lot boundaries), Re-roofing, Re-siding, New furnace, Fireplace, Water heater, Air conditioner, Installing gas piping. **Contact City Hall to obtain a permit.**

Residents walking their dogs: Keep dogs on a leash, clean up after your pet.

Mowing: Keep grass mowed under 6 inches tall.

Vehicles parked on residential lot: Must be drivable and with current license tabs; parked on gravel,

pavement or asphalt.

Street parking limit of 1 hour:

Trucks, trailers, motor homes, campers. Overnight parking allowed north of Fire Hall on gravel.

Sump Pumps: Cannot discharge into sanitary sewer lines. Must be hard-plumbed to outside or storm sewer.

Curfews:

Minors 16 & under between 10 pm and 5 am. Age 17 from midnight to 5 am.

Park Hours: Open 5 am to 10 pm daily.

Swimming Pools: Fencing required if below grade or accessed via a deck.

ATVs: Vehicle must be licensed and driven by licensed drivers on city streets.

Transient Merchants: Ask to see their city permit.

Campfires: Allowed, no more than 3 feet in diameter, 3 feet high flames.



IMPORTANT!
Have clearly visible house numbers for ambulance or fire calls

Chester Woods Trail: New leadership, membership sought

Creating a recreational state bike trail from Eyota to Chester Woods was the goal when trail group was formed in 1995.

The scope of the original trail increased with the addition of a proposed trail between Chester Woods and Rochester. Recent joining with

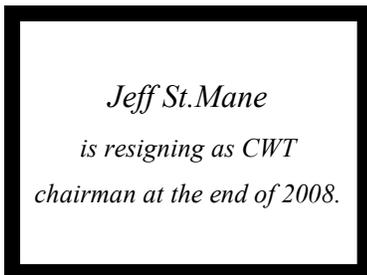
Plainview/Elgin and St. Charles trails groups will create a 50-mile trail loop.

Jeff St.Mane has led the CWT group for several years, originally formed by Mayor Wes

Bussell. St.Mane feels new leader-

ship can spur this group to reaching their initial goal. He is resigning at the end of 2008. Here are three of his 2008 goals:

1. Finding a replacement for his chair position and training his replacement
2. Add new enthusiastic members
3. Purchasing land between Chester Woods and Eyota for next trail segment.



Two goals for Chester Woods Trail already reached in 2008

Two of five goals for 2008 have already been met for the Chester Woods Trail Group.

One of those goals, sending groups to lobby at the MN legislature, helped achieve another goal, receiving funding to pave the trail between Chester Woods and Co. Road 11 near Rochester.

The 2008 legislature granted \$970,000—enough to make this trail segment a reality. Earlier

funding totaling \$595,000 was designated for trail development, land purchases and engineering.

More citizen involvement by those supporting a recreational trail for biking, walking, in-line skating, cross-country skiing and horseback riding (on a parallel grassy bed) is needed. A core group of citizens have already given many patient hours developing our local trail. A renewed spirit with focused in-

volvement is needed in making this trail a reality.

Your support is needed, please consider joining this group.

Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm each month at City Hall.





City of Eyota
 38 South Front St. SW
 P.O. Box 328
 Eyota, MN 55923

Permit No. 12
 Eyota, MN 55934
 Presort Standard

Postal Patron
 Eyota, MN 55934

Dover Brush Site

Eyota residents may bring branches with diameters under 4 inches, leaves, grass clippings, plant stalks to a rural Dover site.

Hours:

Wednesdays 5 to 8 pm (End of Sept.)
 Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm (End of Oct.)

Location:

Going east toward Dover on Highway 14. Turn left onto County Rd No.10. Go 1/2 mile. Turn left on first gravel road. Go past cemetery. Just beyond cemetery on right side of road is the brush site.

Eyota Caboose!
 Fundraiser to paint it RED—the official Chicago & North Western Railroad color.
 Donations at City Hall or contact Vince McConnell

TREE CITY USA--proposed for Eyota

The Eyota Park Board is considering a proposal to make Eyota a Tree City USA. The Arbor Day Foundation administers this program. A presentation on Tree City USA was made at the Board's May 14 meeting. With several members absent, a decision for approval was tabled until the June 11 meeting. If approval is given, the request will be forwarded to City Council.

Qualifying to be named a Tree City USA involves four steps. A **tree board** would be created from citizen volunteers. Eyota's current **tree ordinance** would be revised and updated. Funding to budget a mini-

mum of \$2 per person in Eyota would be required and used for planting and maintenance of trees. An **Arbor Day proclamation and observance** would take place each year in April on Arbor Day.

Communities with a tree program have benefited in many ways:

- ◆ Community pride
- ◆ Providing an image of a place where people want to be
- ◆ Education on caring for trees
- ◆ Lowered air conditioning costs
- ◆ Healthier residents—Trees remove carbon dioxide and pollutants from the air, produce oxygen
- ◆ Mature trees absorb large quantities of rainwater
- ◆ Increased property values
- ◆ Less street maintenance

