

Holiday

2019



THE CITY OF ORONOCO

THE GOLDEN EXPLORER

A Message from the Mayor

The Water & Sewer committee, along with our City Engineer and Stantec Engineering reached a milestone on November 18, 2019. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for Public Comments for the Oronoco Regional Wastewater Treatment project. Public Comment period will be until Dec 17, 2019 for the EAW and January 17, 2020 for the NPDES permit.

A Public Information meeting will be hosted by the MPCA on Dec 5, 2019, at Oronoco City Hall. It will start with an Open House at 6:30 PM and then brief presentations by our City Engineer and the MPCA will begin at 7 PM. A Question & Answer period with MPCA personnel and City Staff will follow the presentations. Please plan on attending to ask questions or to share comments regarding the proposed project and infrastructure collection system.

Joe Palen, our City Engineer from Stantec and I gave presentations regarding our wastewater project to the Senate Capital Investment Committee on October 22 during their tour of SE Minnesota. We also gave a presentation to the House Capital Investment Committee on November 6 during their tour of SE Minnesota. Although they were brief 20 to 30-minute presentations, they were well received by the legislators.

Cont.

The 2020 legislative session begins February 11 in St Paul and concludes May 18. When the session closes we will learn whether the \$20.4 million in State funding will be appropriated to our regional wastewater project. Please share your support by contacting our local legislators. Senator Senjem can be reached at 651.296.3903 or by email at sen.david.senjem@senate.mn. Call Representative Quam at 651.296.9236 or email him at rep.duane.quam@house.mn. They do appreciate hearing from their constituents and especially Oronoco residents and/or supporters for our project.

Enjoy this Holiday season with family and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Travel safe and see you in 2020!

Public Works

The River Park/Cedar Woodlands trail and River Park park will remain closed through the winter/spring. Please do not pass the barricades, or the locked gate due to the present hazards.

Riverwood Hills Park received a facelift with new mulch and boards. It is now open!

Oronoco park drive is also complete. Check out the new pavement!

Have a safe Holiday season!



DOWNTOWN ORONOCO GOLD RUSH DAYS

August 14-16, 2020

The City Council approved the following donations to the various organizations:

Oronoco Cemetery Association \$100.00, Oronoco Food Shelf \$300.00, Oronoco History Center \$150.00, Presbyterian Church of Oronoco \$700.00, Pine Island Area Home Services \$300.00, National Night Out - City \$2,500.00, Fourth of July - City \$7,250.00, Flower bed by City Sign and City Hall - City \$200.00, Oronoco Senior Citizens Group \$500.00, Oronoco Fire Dept - Stabilizer blocks \$400.00, Oronoco First Responders - Pager \$400.00, Holly Joly Lighting \$100.00, VFW - Free meals (\$150) and Window replace \$600.00, VFW - Auxiliary \$300.00, Grace Lutheran Church \$200.00, Civil Air Patrol - Scholarship and Field Trips \$1,500.00.

Letter and checks were sent out after the November 19 City Council meeting. The Gold Rush committee experienced a few more expenses than in previous years, but they should not have those large expenses at the 2020 Gold Rush weekend. The committee appreciates all the support from volunteers and committee members who participated in this great event.

The committee received positive comments about the weekend, and many vendors said they are looking forward to attending the 2020 Gold Rush. It will be August 14, 15, and 16, which coincides with the Rochester event. The times have been changed to 8 AM to 6 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 8 AM to 2 PM on Sunday. The Car Show will be from 2 PM to 5 PM on Saturday and the 5K event on Sunday will start at 9 AM.

The Gold Rush Committee meets at 6 PM at City Hall on the 2nd Monday of every month. Please join us to learn more about the Gold Rush activities and answer questions you may have. Gold Rush is a non-profit organization that donates back to the community as shown above, after expenses are paid and a small operating budget is kept for the coming year.

Greetings from the Oronoco Fire Department

Winter is here or will be here shortly! During the winter months, we tend to spend more time at home with our family and loved ones, so what better way to protect them than by making sure your home is protected from any fire hazards. The Oronoco Fire Department would like to share a few important Winter fire safety tips.

Have Your Furnace Checked: Although this is something that many people believe they can do themselves, it is often safer to invest in hiring a professional to come and inspect your furnace annually. It's always better to know when something is not working properly than to have it abruptly break down in those cold winter months when you need heat the most.

Check Your Chimneys and Vents: Fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting. If your family lights the fireplace often, you most likely need an annual chimney inspection to make sure that there are no hazards capable of starting a fire. It's important to always remember that when burning wood, use dry, seasoned wood which produces more flame with less smoke.

Test Your Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors! You always want to double check that your batteries are fresh and will last you through the winter. Have smoke alarms near the kitchen, bedrooms, and the laundry room. Carbon monoxide detectors should be located on every level of your home, five feet from the ground, near every sleeping area, near attached garages, or where the manufacturer recommends.

Always Cover Your Fireplace with a Screen: Either a metal screen or tempered glass will suffice to protect any sparks from leaving the fireplace. Still, you always want to make sure to keep kids and pets at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.

Cont.

Beware of Lit Candles: Although candles can set the mood for a relaxing and calming evening, they can be easily knocked over by kids or pets. Only light candles when you are alert and able to watch them, blowing them out whenever you intend to leave the room.

Beware of Space Heaters: These devices require a good amount of space to be used without any fire hazards. Just like fireplaces, children and pets should not sit closer than three feet in front of a space heater. Avoid placing heaters near curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Always make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to shut-off as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level.

Call the firehall at 367-4440 if you would like to leave a message with any questions or if you are interested in joining, and check out our website <http://www.oronocofire.com> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/oronocofire> for more information.



1st Responder's

***We are looking for members!
Applications are on our website
at www.oronocofire.com***

***Have a safe and happy Holiday
Season!***

Oronoco Area History Center

Find us on Facebook!

The History Center will be open Saturday, December 14, from 10AM-12PM. Plan to join us that day for holiday treats. This will be the last time we are open until the spring of 2020, however, we are always available by appointment. Contact Mary Fuller at 507-367-4320, or mmfuller@bevcomm.net to set a time to meet at your convenience.

The newly published book, “Lake Zumbro – The First 100 Years”, is available at the History Center. The price is \$55, with \$33 going to Lake Zumbro Forever. It is a beautiful book and would make a great Christmas gift!

Please keep the History Center in mind when you aren’t sure what to do with old newspapers, photos, and other memorabilia about the Oronoco area. If you have items you don’t wish to part with, but want to share, we can photograph what you have so more of our history can be available for others to see.

News from the past

December 16, 1871: “On Christmas night, Mr. Welch of the Zumbro House at Oronoco gives a party at which Gray’s Band are to play, and Mr. Welch furnishes the supper, which will not fail to be a good one.” (If anyone knows where the Zumbro House was, please let us know!)

December 8, 1919: The Oronoco Presbyterian Ladies Aid will hold a bazaar and give a New England Dinner on December 12, at Postier’s Hall. The menu will consist of creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, brown bread, rolls, cranberry jelly, pickles, apple salad, pie, and coffee. Price: Adults, 35 cents; children, 25 cents. Everyone is cordially invited.



***Oronoco is looking for
Election Judges***

If you are interested in being an election judge for 2020, please contact City Hall. You may work one election or all, part-time or the full day.

Election judges are paid!

2020 Elections:

Training is in January

- March 3, 2020 - Presidential Nomination Primary Election
- August 11, 2020 - Primary Election
- November 3, 2020 - General Election

All elections are held at Oronoco City Hall,
115 2nd St NW

If interested, please contact
oronococityhall@gmail.com or at 507-367-4405

Thank you!

City Notice:
Outstanding Citizen

Another amazing citizen has been selected for the 2019
Outstanding Citizen award!

This resident will be presented the award at the
December City Council meeting.

Please look for that recognition on the city website or
Facebook page.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
our family to yours!
~ City of Oronoco



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

20 -3rd Street S.W., P.O. 118
Phone 507-367-4711
website: www.oronocochurch.org
Pastor: Lisa Johnson
Email: pastorlisaj@gmail.com
Phone: 507-995-7310

Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

Followed by coffee and fellowship.

The Food Shelf is housed at and sponsored by
our church together with Channel One.

The food shelf will be open

December 11th, 2019.



Upcoming Events:

Christmas Cookie Sale

It's back!!! The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is holding our 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie sale! THOUSANDS of cookies! Only \$5 per pound! (And we'll even provide the boxes for you.)

Sat., Dec. 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Cont.

Christmas Eve Worship

Tues., Dec. 24, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Luncheon Dates for 2020

As 2020 rolls around, the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco will once again be hosting our luncheons on the 3rd Wed. of January, February, and March.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 15

Wed., Feb. 19

Wed., Mar. 18

No charge at the door. We're simply collecting a free will offering.

****ALL proceeds go straight to mission giving through our People of the Church to local organizations and worldwide mission.****



Young at Heart Exercise Group

The Oronoco Young at Heart Exercise Group meets Wednesday mornings; 9 a.m. at the Oronoco Community Center. Following at 10:15 will be yoga class for those interested.

With the holidays upon us it is a good time to burn a few extra calories exercising. And it is especially important this time of the year to work on balance. We need good balance to prevent falls which can be a bigger issue in the winter weather. As we age, good balance becomes more important to be able to continue daily activities, make it easier to move, improve your ability to react to sudden change of direction and help prevent injury. Balance promotes stable knees, ankles, hips and shoulders. Strengthening core muscles is also good for balance coordination. The saying "use it or lose it" applies to balance. In exercise class we work on balance and even more so in the yoga class. Join us for a more well balanced life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~ Rosemary Van Houten

ORONOCO SENIORS GROUP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

Join the Senior Citizens of Oronoco Seniors Group at the Oronoco Community Center every 4th Wednesday of the month April –November. They play Bingo, cards, and have a great social gathering with an occasional speaker on important topics to keep you informed. A catered noon meal is offered for only \$4.00. Call Carole at 367-4717 with any questions you may have or if you are interested.



CITY OF ORONOCO MEETINGS

City Council:

3rd Tuesday each month @ 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning:

2nd Thursday each month @ 7:00 pm

1st Responders:

1st Monday each month @ 6:30pm

Fire Department:

2nd Monday of each month @ 6:30pm

4th Monday of each month @ 6:30pm

Parks & Trail Committee:

1st Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Downtown Oronoco Gold Rush:

2nd Monday each month @ 6:00 pm

Water & Sewer Committee :

2nd Tuesday each month @ 6:30 pm

CITY CONTACTS

2019 Mayor:

Ryland Eichhorst (993-9045)

2019 Council Members:

Trish Shields (367-2525)

Carl Krause (358-5330)

Nancy Quimby (319-4328)

Lori Novak

City Clerk / Treasurer:

Sandy Jessen (367-4405)

Deputy Clerk:

Rebecca McGuire (367-4405)

Maintenance:

Dan Howard (367-2281)

Jim Ackman

Fire Department:

Dan Sundt (367-4440)

1st Responders:

Chris Inman

Emergency Operations Center:

Pat McGovern (367-2277)

Planning & Zoning:

Paul Jannetto

Gold Rush Committee:

Carol Olson (367-2111)

Park Committee:

Katie Dudley (367-2744)

Cemetery Association:

John Tilford (507)273-1661

Oronoco Township:

Lucy Shonyo (367-2665)

CITY HALL INFORMATION

Monday - Thursday

9AM-3:30PM

Friday

9-1pm

(507) 367-4405

oronococityhall@gmail.com

www.oronoco.com

**Please remember that
all dogs and cats
must be current on shots
and licensed with Oronoco
per City Ordinance. License
are \$5.00 a year per pet.
Please renew your license
every December at City Hall
with a copy of your animals
vaccination record.**

Thank you!



Need A Document Notarized?

If you need a document notarized, contact City Hall. Your City Clerk is a Notary of the Public. This is a service provided FREE by the City.



Please visit our website for notices, events, applications, permits, meeting minutes, and more.

WWW.ORNOCO.COM



WATER TEST KITS

Available at City Hall. It tests for coli form, bacteria, nitrate, chloride, sulfate, nitrite and fluoride.

COMMUNITY CENTER AND CITY PARK RENTALS

CC Room Rental:	\$75 - \$150
Meeting Room Rental:	\$25
Chairs:	\$35
Picnic Tables:	\$50
Camp Sites:	\$15
City Shelter:	\$30



LIKE us on Facebook!





Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Synod (WELS) - wels.net

45 First Avenue NE, PO Box 238

Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

Office: (507) 367-4329

gracelutheranoronoco.com

follow us on Facebook

Pastor Roger Riedel – Cell: (507) 601-8541

riedels.1999@gmail.com

*2 Peter 3:18 - “Grow in the grace and knowledge of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*



Sunday Worship – 10:00am

*Please join us in worshiping Jesus, who came to earth to
save us. Christ, the Savior, is born!*

Sunday schedule:

8:15 - 9:45am Youth confirmation/catechism class with
Pastor

8:45 - 9:45am Sunday school

10:00am Worship

11:15am Family Bible Time & Fellowship Hour

Sunday morning Bible class meets after Sunday worship
in the church basement “fellowship hall.” In our current
study, “Back to the Basics,” we are having an in-depth
discussion of “The Lord's Prayer.”

Cont.



Wednesday evening Bible class meets in the church basement near the fire place. (You may enter through the double doors upstairs or the glass doors downstairs.) We paused our study until January 8, 2020, at which time we will finish our study, "A Christian View of Death." Discussion topics have included: God's gift of human life, coping with death (our own approaching death or the death of a loved one), abortion and euthanasia, and addressing the topic of death with children.

For information regarding monthly Friday Fun Nights, Youth Group and church membership, or additional information about Sunday worship and weekly Bible study, please call Pastor Riedel.

Coming Attractions at Grace Lutheran Church, Oronoco, MN:

Wednesday, November 27 – Thanksgiving

5:30-6:30pm Meal and 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Friday, December 13 – 6:00 pm Family Fun Night

To every family who attends: please bring 2 dozen of your favorite holiday treats to share in a cookie exchange.

We will also be decorating gingerbread houses. A sign-up sheet for "Cookie Night" will be posted at church.

Advent & Christmas

Sunday worship theme in Advent: "Isaiah's Christmas"

December 1 – "Isaiah's Christmas Advertisement"

December 8 – "Isaiah's Christmas Tree"

December 15 – "Isaiah's Christmas Comfort"

December 22 - Children's Christmas Service

10:00am – theme: "Pictures of God's Promises"

December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00pm Candlelight Worship - "Isaiah's Christmas Present"

December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Worship - "Isaiah's Christmas Light"

What's new in the New Year?

Beginning Monday, January 6, 2020, Grace will offer an additional opportunity for members and visitors to worship the Lord. The Monday evening service will be similar to the Sunday service.

Notice:

Pet tags are required by
Oronoco
City Code 91.

2020 Tags
are ready
for purchase and are
due by January 31st.

2019 tags
expire Dec. 31st.

Please call City Hall
with any questions
you may have.

***Book Exchange at
Oronoco City Hall***

We have had a great turn
around in books,
acquired CD's, and
movies as well.

Feel free to bring
books in
or take books out!



Toys for Oronoco Area Kids

Drop off toys appropriate for ages 0-16 yrs or cash donations at Oronoco Gas n' Go or the Oronoco City Hall by December 6th. Help our local families in need.

Saturday, December 7th, 11 am to 2 pm
stop by the Oronoco Community Center to visit Santa.
There will be refreshments and crafts.

If you know of a family in need please drop their information off at the Oronoco Gas N' Go or City Hall.
~ Sponsored by the Oronoco Lions Club.





Pine Island Area Home Services

A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

Web site: www.pineislandareahomeservices.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pineislandareahomeservices

Office hours: Monday through Thursday from 9:00-1:00

Pine Island Area Home Services provides volunteer services to promote independent, home-based living for adults 65 and older in the Pine Island and Oronoco area.

Transportation, handyman services, light housekeeping, friendly visits and other services are available to help elders remain safe and comfortable in their home. Home visits are available to adults 65 and older who would like more information or need assistance.

Current and Upcoming Services are as follows:

Transportation

Transportation services are provided by our volunteer drivers. Please call the PIAHS office (356-2999) to request transportation. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, we would welcome your help. We are always in need of more volunteer drivers!



Exercise Classes

One-hour exercise classes are held at the Pine Island Senior Citizen Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30a.m. Oronoco holds an exercise class at 9:00 on Wednesdays at the City Hall. The exercise classes incorporate weights into the regular exercise program to improve strength and balance. This class is designated to prevent or reverse bone loss. This class is recommended especially to those concerned about osteoporosis prevention or reversal.



Yoga Class

Gentle Yoga classes are held in Pine Island on Wednesdays at 9:30.

The sessions are held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



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Foot Care Clinic

A foot care clinic is provided on the 3rd Thursday each month. An \$18 fee is paid directly to the nurse. Call Pine Island Area Home Services at 356-2999 for appointments. In-home appointments are available for elders having difficulty leaving home.

Blood Pressure Clinics (open to anyone)

You are welcome to have a blood pressure check at 11:00 a.m. on the following dates and locations:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month at the City Center.

4th Wednesday each month at 11:30 at the Oronoco Community Center (Not held January thru March)

In-home blood pressure monitoring is available for elders having difficulty leaving home.



Shopping Trips

Twice a month you may take our bus to Walmart for your shopping needs. Call for dates and time.



Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for new volunteers to assist our seniors. We especially need volunteer drivers. Please contact us if you are interested.

Ensure your elderly loved ones good health and safety this winter.

Here are some ways you can offer help:

- Offer to bring their mail to their door.
- Run errands or pick up their supplies.
- Remove snow from their car, drive or walkway.
- Offer to walk their dog in slippery weather.
- Stop by to say hello to prevent social isolation.



Let's be careful out there!

PIAHS wishes everyone a blessed holiday season and a safe and healthy winter!

Oronoco Food Shelf

Holiday time is a time when we are all busy planning family holiday gatherings. At the food shelf volunteers are helping others that don't have as much get special treats for their holidays. We are very fortunate that one local family purchases turkeys and donates to food shelf visitors before Thanksgiving and have done for nearly 8 years. And since Christmas falls on the 4th Wednesday this year there will be ONLY ONE open date December 11th for food shelf visitors to get food in December. If your family wants to donate to the food shelf either food or monetary donations let us remind you that the Oronoco Food Shelf is a 501c3 organization and donations are deductible if that is a concern. Mail to PO Box 118 Oronoco.

In a recent notice in the newsletter I made the comment that we might have to close. This related to finding replacement coordinators. I have done the job since the food shelf opened 11 years ago. I would like to pass the position on to an interested person in the community. We are also hoping to find a better location for the food shelf as there are stairs to contend with and many visitors have difficulty with them. So whether this means moving the whole operation to another space OR building on to the present location at the Presbyterian church is yet to be determined. Please know that we don't wish to close but continue serving the community but in a more convenient space. There is a great need for folks less fortunate.

Thanks for your past support!



Parks and Trails

The Parks Committee would like to thank the Lions Club for putting up the rink boards and getting it set up for the season each year. Also a big thank you to city staff for maintaining the rink all winter. So please come out soon to have fun on the ice next to City Hall. A warming shelter is set up again for this winter. Parks is requesting gently used skate donations from the public . All sizes needed. Please leave them in the warming house for those who need them.

Have a safe and Happy Holidays!

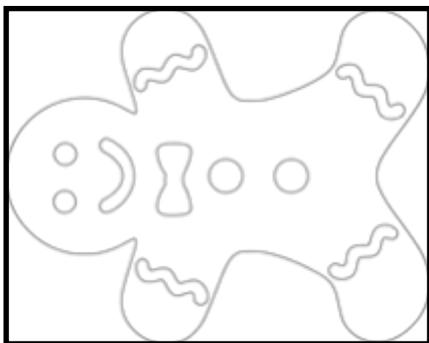
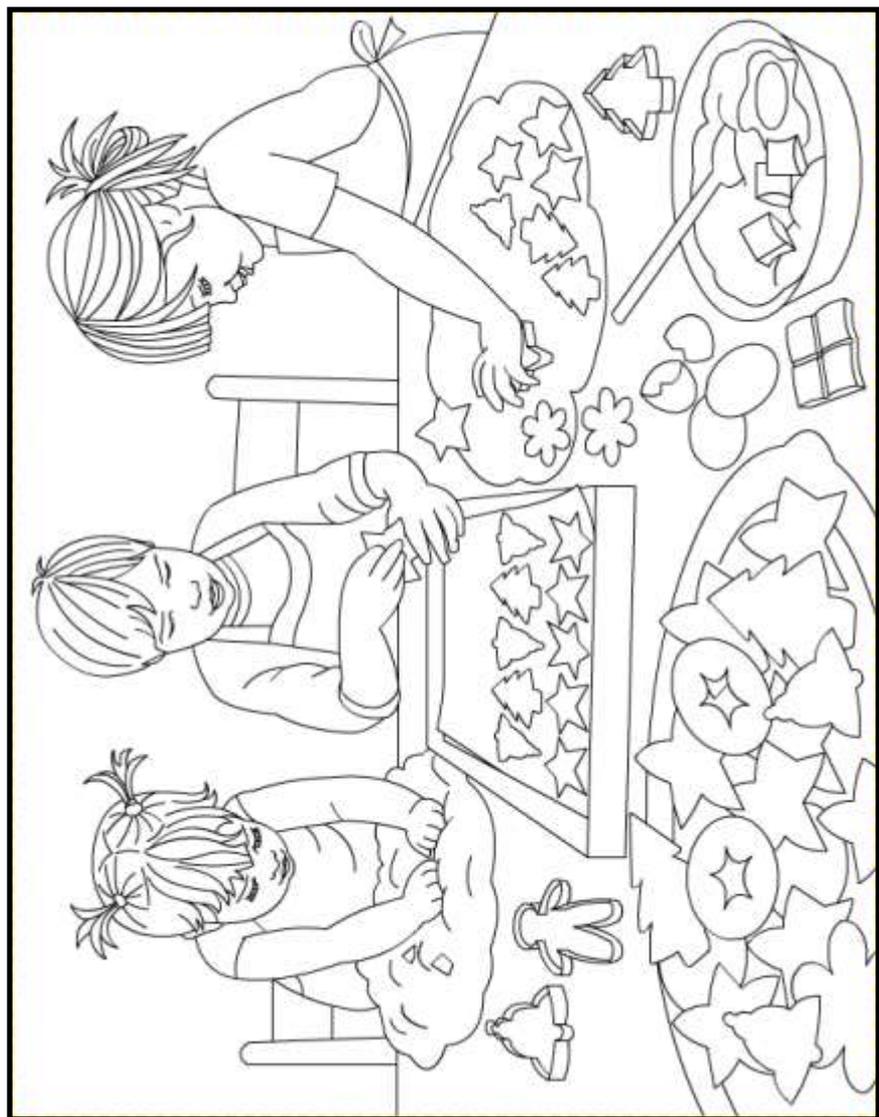
Planning & Zoning

*We are looking for another committee member to start
in January 2020 .*

*If you are interested, please contact City Hall.
Happy Holidays!*

Coloring Corner





City of Oronoco ~ 2019 Calendar

December 2 - 5:30 pm - Oronoco Township

December 2 - 6:30 pm - Parks

December 2 - 6:30 pm - 1st Resp.

December 5 - 6:30 pm - Wastewater Public Open house

December 9 - DOGR (No meeting)

December 9 - 6:30 pm - FD

December 10 - Water & Sewer (No meeting)

December 12 - 7 pm - P&Z

December 17 - 7 pm - Reg. Council Mtg.

December 23 - Utility Auto Draft

December 23 - 6:30 pm - Fire Department Training

December 24th & 25th - CLOSED

December 28 - Water Bills Due

December 31st - CLOSED

January 1st - CLOSED

*Seniors Exercise Class - Every Wednesday Morning,
9am at Oronoco City Hall

*More than 2 City Council Members may attend committee
meetings creating a quorum.

*Thank you to everyone who makes this
newsletter possible!*

