



A Message from the Mayor

I've always thought "February" sounded warmer than "January," but not as warm as "March 1!" That didn't seem to happen this year! We did have a couple days of thawing temperatures, though, and the photo of the rapids captured that warming — enjoy the photo!



The river restoration and dam removal was completed in early December. The county will still own the lake bed until the warranty period is up in December 2018. At that time the restoration project will be turned over to the City of Oronoco. There are exciting plans for the lakebed, rapids, and river in the years to come!

The Water and Sewer section later in the newsletter shares the latest information regarding the Wastewater project; be sure to read that section.

Cont.

You might notice notices around Oronoco in the coming months, and throughout 2018. Garden Park will be cleaned up and the Fire Department will burn the two woodpiles located there.

Extended mowing of the Garden Park area promises to make it more accessible and usable for our citizens. The Parks and Trails committee is working on additional updates to the parks. Those plans are detailed later in the newsletter.

Noble RV has started moving in their inventory of trailers to sell, and we are hoping that Hilltop RV will start their construction this spring.

A big thank you to our local businesses! We appreciate your presence here, as well as the convenience you offer. And to the Oronoco residents who support them, your support and patronage of these businesses will help keep them in our community. Please continue to shop locally whenever possible!

There are plans to install a new "Welcome to Oronoco" sign at Exit 64, southbound lane of Highway 52 this year. It will be similar to the northbound sign at Exit 64 that has been there since 2012.

The 4th of July, National Night Out, and Downtown Oronoco Gold Rush Days in August are just a few of the exciting events happening in Oronoco in 2018. We look forward to seeing you and your families there!



A message from Council or Trish Shields

Just a few cold weeks left and hope to start feeling the warm winds of spring!

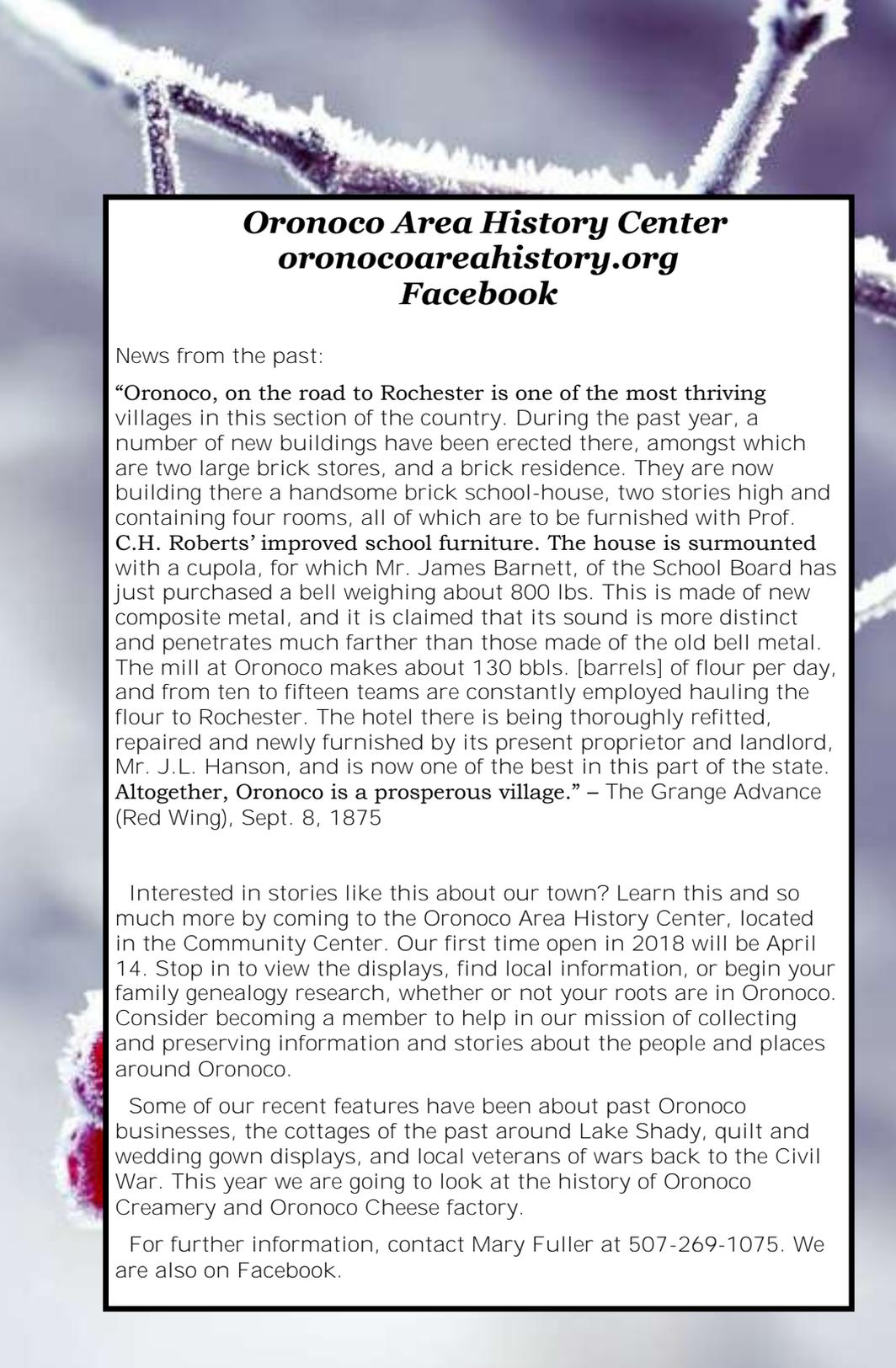
Please congratulate Carol Olson as she was awarded Citizen of the Year! She does so much for all, and always with a smile. Don't hesitate to thank her.

Many pets still need tags this year. It's a very minimal fee of \$5. Pet tags are required by ordinance but are also a great idea for several reasons. If your pet is lost, his/ her tag will help in getting them returned promptly, as well as let others know you are up to date on vaccinations.

Garden Park will be offering larger plots this year at the same price as last year's. There is water available and the tilling is done for you. We will also provide a shed for tools this year.

There are membership opportunities on committees available. They meet once a month, usually for only an hour. Your time is appreciated and your opinion counts. Help make our community the best it can be. For all of our volunteers, committee members, and staff, Thank You! Your time and service make a difference.





Oronoco Area History Center
oronocoareahistory.org
Facebook

News from the past:

“Oronoco, on the road to Rochester is one of the most thriving villages in this section of the country. During the past year, a number of new buildings have been erected there, amongst which are two large brick stores, and a brick residence. They are now building there a handsome brick school-house, two stories high and containing four rooms, all of which are to be furnished with Prof. C.H. Roberts’ improved school furniture. The house is surmounted with a cupola, for which Mr. James Barnett, of the School Board has just purchased a bell weighing about 800 lbs. This is made of new composite metal, and it is claimed that its sound is more distinct and penetrates much farther than those made of the old bell metal. The mill at Oronoco makes about 130 bbls. [barrels] of flour per day, and from ten to fifteen teams are constantly employed hauling the flour to Rochester. The hotel there is being thoroughly refitted, repaired and newly furnished by its present proprietor and landlord, Mr. J.L. Hanson, and is now one of the best in this part of the state. Altogether, Oronoco is a prosperous village.” – The Grange Advance (Red Wing), Sept. 8, 1875

Interested in stories like this about our town? Learn this and so much more by coming to the Oronoco Area History Center, located in the Community Center. Our first time open in 2018 will be April 14. Stop in to view the displays, find local information, or begin your family genealogy research, whether or not your roots are in Oronoco. Consider becoming a member to help in our mission of collecting and preserving information and stories about the people and places around Oronoco.

Some of our recent features have been about past Oronoco businesses, the cottages of the past around Lake Shady, quilt and wedding gown displays, and local veterans of wars back to the Civil War. This year we are going to look at the history of Oronoco Creamery and Oronoco Cheese factory.

For further information, contact Mary Fuller at 507-269-1075. We are also on Facebook.

Young at Heart Exercise Group

Spring into shape! Exercise will help get those muscles and joints moving, maintain or improve flexibility, balance, range of motion, strength and prepare your body for spring yard work. By exercising with a group it helps give support and encouragement to keep at it. The Young at Heart Exercise Group meets Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m. at the Oronoco Community Center. You can join any time and work at your ability level. If you aren't sure about what exercise is okay for you, check with your doctor, and come to do what you are able to.

Stay healthy and keep moving!

Rosemary Van Houten



Public Works

We will be out locating curb stops throughout the winter. If you have any questions regarding curb stops, please contact us at 507-367-2281 or at oronocopark@gmail.com

If you are interested in holding an event at the Community Center, Please contact Oronoco City Hall for arrangements at oronococityhall@yahoo.com or at 507-367-4405.

Some River Wood Hills street signs will be updated over the winter.

Please be mindful of the snow plows. Remember to place garbage cans in a safe location as to not have them hit during plowing. If you have concerns with plowing, please contact City Hall.

Notice:

Pet tags for 2017 are now expired.

Please get your 2018 pet tags.

If you are unable to make it during office hours,

Please contact City Hall.



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: 507-696-8753



Sunday Worship 10:00a.m.

Coffee & Conversation 9:00 – 9:45

Sunday School (ages 6-12) - 10:45-11:30 a.m.

**Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month
and all are welcome to participate.**

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

**The food shelf is open the second
and fourth Wednesday of each month.**

**Beginning March 14th the food shelf will be open
from 5 - 7 pm**



Every Sunday morning we have what we call
“Coffee & Conversation” 9:00-9:45 on Sunday
mornings – a time of discussion on faith, life, and
everything in between. This is a time to come
together with coffee and snacks (or breakfast ... depending on how
early you get up ☺) and have some discussions around a variety of
faith topics – some Bible study, some prayer, some faith formation,
some topical studies. No pre-reading or prior knowledge required. Right
now we are working our way through "The Gospel of Mark – Jesus:
Powerful, Courageous, and Trusting."

2018 Luncheon Dates

We will be holding our luncheons from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesdays of February and March.

The dates are:

- Wed., February 21

- Wed., March 21

All luncheons are free will offering only. Come and enjoy a warm, delicious meal with us!

A free will offering helps to support our outreach programs.

Everyone is welcome!

Chili Cook-Off and Lunch

The Presbyterian Church of Oronoco is hosting a community-wide chili cook-off and lunch. Bring your very best chili recipe to the church by noon for judging or come by noon to help judge! Cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place as well as a special prize for "Most Unique." If you'd rather not enter a chili but would love to come help us eat it, you can do that, too! Lunch will begin after the judging is complete. There is NO entry fee for the judging, and all we ask for lunch attendance is a free will offering. We will also have all the chili fixin's as well as desserts available.

Cost: free will offering at the door

Date: **Sun., Mar. 18, 2018**

Prizes:

Times:

- Judging: **12:00 p.m.**

- Lunch served: **12:15 p.m.**

- 1st place = \$50

- 2nd place = \$25

- 3rd place = \$10

- Most unique =

\$25 Target gift card

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday

Sun., Mar. 25, 2018

10:00 a.m. worship

Maundy Thursday

Soup & Bread Supper

Worship around the Table

Thurs., Mar. 29, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

A Service of Darkness and Shadow

Fri., Mar. 30, 2018

7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sun., Apr. 1, 2018

10:00 a.m. worship with communion

Sermon: "The Greatest April Fool's Joke Ever"

Holy Humor Sunday

Sun., Apr. 8, 2018

Extend the wonder and elation of the Easter resurrection with a service that embraces laughter, absurdity, and joy!

10:00 a.m. worship

Bring your favorite, family-friendly jokes to share!!



Oronoco Food Shelf

Oronoco Food Shelf Annual Report – 2017

The Food Shelf continues to be an important outreach for the Community. We have continued to experience growth in numbers of folks using the service and in the amount of food distributed throughout the year. We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers from around the community that staff the days we are open.

One young man who volunteers regularly with his family took on a service project for his Trail Life group. He observed that we could use an improved system of getting boxes delivered from Channel One into the basement. He designed, built and raised the funds to complete the project which we are now using. We are grateful for dedicated young folks that see a need and make a commitment to help others. This is important because throughout the year we haul 10 tons of groceries in and out of the basement. That's a lot for a small food shelf like ours. One statistic that I have never tracked is the number of volunteer hours that it takes to keep the outreach going. It is easier to track the dollars raised and spent. For 2017 \$6000 was donated directly to the Food Shelf in addition we received \$3070 in credit from Channel One donated on our behalf. We spent \$6107 on food and a few operating expenses. We have more than adequate funds to continue operations.

We were also contacted by the Pine Island Area Combined Charities to ask if we were a 501c3 charity. The food shelf has skirted along without this designation for 8 years using the church's or Channel One's status. It was suggested that we apply for our own, which I did in October. The Oronoco Food Shelf now has our own 501c3 designation. So now all cash donations to the Food Shelf are tax deductible in compliance with the IRS rules. They were before but now officially through the Food Shelf's own designation.

We continue to stress compassionate service to our clientele. This year one of the persons that has used the food shelf asked if she could bring treats along to share with the people as they waited their turn to go downstairs to shop. I replied that we would appreciate that. We have always had some treat and coffee but mostly boxed cookies or cakes. So homemade treats were a bonus. Now every open date we have fresh cakes and cookies from her. I make sure that I supply her with baking essentials for her hobby.

Anyone that has spent any time volunteering at the food shelf realizes that the majority of the clients that come have some health challenges and many have mobility issues as well. The stairs have always posed an obstacle for some but they do not let that prevent them for getting down the stairs. We have discussed this each year but no feasible solution was evident but this year we have an idea to explore. We are going to figure out if a lift can be installed near the fellowship hall central stairway. I have no idea if this is even possible or how much it would cost but we are going to explore that and report back to the Session. This would be a great benefit to the church if it is possible.



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

Dam meetings:

Every Monday at 10am

CITY CONTACTS

2017 Mayor:

Ryland Eichhorst (993-9045)

2017 Council Members:

Trish Shields (367-2525)

Beau Hanenberger (367-2223)

Carl Krause (358-5330)

Nancy Quimby (319-4328)

City Clerk / Treasurer:

Sandy Jessen (367-4405)

Assistant Clerk:

Rebecca McGuire (367-4405)

Maintenance:

Danny Howard (367-2281)

Jim Ackman (367-2281)

Fire Department:

Dan Sundt (367-4440)

Emergency Medical Responders:

Jeff Allhiser (367-4440)

Emergency Operations Center:

Pat McGovern (367-2277)

Planning & Zoning:

Adam Brase

Gold Rush Committee:

Carol Olson (367-2111)

Park Committee:

Katie Dudley (367-2744)

Cemetery Association:

John Tilford (507)273-1661

CITY HALL INFORMATION

Monday—Thursday

9AM-3:30PM

Friday

9-1pm

(507) 367-4405

oronococityhall@yahoo.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



LIKE us on Facebook!



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:	\$10
City Shelter:	\$30



Daylight
savings
March, 11
2018



HAPPY
SPRING!



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

We now have
MORE
BOOK
SHELVES!

Please feel free to
bring books in
or
take books
out!

We have great
reads for all!

There is something
for everyone!





Pine Island Area Home Services A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program



Web site: www.pineislandareahomeservices.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pineislandareahomeservices

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.

Current and Upcoming Services are as follows:

Transportation



Transportation services are provided by our volunteer drivers. Please call the PIAHS office (356-2229) 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 classes are held at the Pine Island Senior Citizen Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30a.m. **Oronoco** holds an exercise class at 9:30 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.



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.
- 1st Wednesday each month at the Pine Island Senior Citizen Center

4th Wednesday each month 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.

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.

Senior Forums

The topic during the next Senior Forum held on March 1st at 12 noon will be **"Social Determinants of Health: Loneliness and isolation"**. Dr. McBeath will lead a discussion regarding the effects of loneliness in relation to heart disease, dementia and depression. Forums are about 1 hr. long and are held at the Senior Center.



LONELINESS

Loneliness is associated with higher odds of having a mental health problem among older adults. It is increasingly becoming a serious public health hazard.

Top 10



Fundraiser Dinner

April 20th, a fundraiser dinner will be held at the Pine Island Legion. Join us for a great meal and good conversation while supporting our program! Visit us on Facebook for further information.

Volunteers

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



Water & Sewer Committee

Special Community Meeting

Mark **Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 P.M.** on your calendar for a special community meeting at the Oronoco City Hall! The Public Informational Meeting that will include a presentation of the Draft Regional Wastewater Study including an Executive Summary, Oronoco's 2018 Bonding Bill funding request, wastewater project next steps and Q & A session with Oronoco residents.

There is much news from the Water & Sewer Committee! In recognition of Oronoco's unique challenges, the City received a \$500,000 special appropriation grant through the 2017 Bonding Bill to study regional wastewater treatment options. The study kicked off in the Fall of 2017, a Draft Regional Wastewater Study has been prepared and distributed to all parties in January 2018. We are actively working with Rochester, Oronoco Estates and Pine Island to see if some form of regional wastewater collection and treatment system makes sense for some, or a combination of all those involved.

Regional Wastewater collection and treatment options that are being evaluated for Oronoco, Oronoco Estates, Pine Island and NW Rochester include:

- Regional wastewater collection and treatment at a new regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving all communities in the study area.
- Regional wastewater collection and conveyance to Rochester for interim treatment with a Future Regional WWTP serving all communities in the study area.



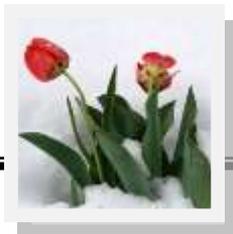
Cont.

Local Options of Less Regional Significance that are being evaluated for Oronoco, Oronoco Estates, Pine Island and NW Rochester include:

- Oronoco & Oronoco Estates wastewater collection and conveyance to Rochester for treatment (doesn't include Pine Island or NW Rochester in near term)
- Oronoco & Pine Island wastewater collection and treatment at a joint WWTP
- Oronoco & Oronoco Estates & Pine Island each having separate wastewater collection and treatment facilities.
- Portions of Pine Island served through an Oronoco wastewater collection system and a shared wastewater treatment plant: (PI Sewer Districts A & E, & possibly B)

Numerous meetings have been conducted with Oronoco, Pine Island, Oronoco Estates and the City of Rochester. A presentation to the Rochester Committee of the Whole was also completed in January. Additional dialogue with all parties is needed, but Oronoco's options for partnering on a regional wastewater system are starting to take shape.

Oronoco participated in the SE Minnesota Senate Bonding Tour on February 14th. The City of Oronoco requested the Legislature provide ~\$3 million in funding through the 2018 Bonding Bill to advance the wastewater project to "Shovel Ready" status by the 2019 / 2020 Bonding Bill. The requested funding is needed to advance the project, as no existing state programs provide funding for this stage of project development. This request will be carried to the State Legislature as it begins the 2018 session this spring. This request is for funding to prepare wastewater agreements with partnering communities, topographic survey and mapping of the project area, geotechnical investigations, preliminary and final design for the preferred wastewater treatment alternative, preparation of construction plans and bidding documents, agency reviews and permitting and easement / land acquisition.



ORONOCO SENIORS GROUP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

CALL Carole at 367-4717 or Evelyn at 367-4462

Join the Senior Citizens of Oronoco Seniors Group at the Oronoco Community Center . They meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month. They play Bingo, cards, and have a great social gathering. They have an occasional speaker on important topics to keep you informed. A catered noon meal is offered for only \$4.00 on the 4th Wednesday.

Swanson - Owen VFW

is having a **50th Anniversary**

Open House

**on Saturday, February 24th from
1 to 4 pm.**

We are also celebrating our Commander's (Don Baker) 97th birthday. Please come and help us celebrate at our *Post Home* (5 MN Ave) in Oronoco.

Also, a reminder that we serve pancakes & sausage and biscuits & gravy every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month for only \$6!



Grace Lutheran Church

45 1ST Ave. NE

Oronoco, MN 55960

Pastor Benjamin Kempfert

507-367-4329

See us on Facebook

www.gracelutheranoronoco.com

Sundays:

8:45 a.m. – Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, and
Catechism

10:00 a.m. – Worship



*1st Responder's
wish you a*

HAPPY EASTER!





~ Planning & Zoning ~

Have a great St. Patrick's Day!

Coloring Corner





City of Oronoco ~ March 2018 Calendar

March 5 - 6:30pm - 1st Responders

March 5 - 6:30pm - Parks & Trails

March 5 - 7pm - Township

March 8 - 7pm- Planning & Zoning

March 8- 7:05pm - Lot Public Hearing

March 8 - 7:10pm - Fence Public Hearing

March 8 - 7:15pm - CUP Public Hearing

March 11 - Daylight Savings

March 12 - 6pm - DOGR

March 12 - 6:30pm - Fire Department

March 13 - Township Elections

March 13 - 8:05pm - Water & Sewer

March 14 - Noon - Seniors

March 17 - **St. Patty's Day**

March 20 - 6:45 - Cemetery Vacate Public Hearing

March 20 - 7pm - Reg. City Meeting

March 20 - First Day of Spring

March 26 - 6:30pm - FD training

March 28 - Noon - Seniors

March 28 - 11am - Water Bills Due

**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!