
City Viewpoint

Publication of the City of Cold Spring

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www.coldspring.govoffice.com

PHARMACY OPENING SOON!

The news of the closing of Snyder Drug has caused a great deal of concern, and set in motion a great deal of conversation over a weeklong period. City officials had no advanced notice, and learned of the troubling news through reports from the staff of our drugstore. There had been no hint to City leadership that a change might be on the horizon, so it came as an incredible shock to all of us as well. The efforts of the City to ensure that we have a pharmacy and drugstore in our community began the moment that the news broke. Early conversations made it quite clear that there was no hope of persuading decision-makers to keep this location open, so the efforts were focused on courting a new pharmacy and to begin as quickly as possible.

Members of the City Council, staff, and our Economic Development Authority have spent many hours and held countless phone conversations with the ultimate payoff occurring when the *Minnesota Board of Pharmacy* agreed to suspend their normal operating procedures to allow for a process for a pharmacy to be licensed in a matter of only days; saving what could have been months without a pharmacy. The City is very happy to announce that Thrifty White Pharmacy will be opening a store in Cold Spring on Thursday, January 28th, 2010.

They will be open for business Monday-Friday 9am-7pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, and Sunday 10 am-2pm.



Thrifty White Pharmacy employees and community leaders gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony

The City showed many possible locations to Thrifty White Pharmacy, and in the end they selected the site of the new Schurman Retail Center (right across the street from City Hall). You'll note that finishing work is well underway on the northern-most suite on the lower level. There was a lot of activity there this past Saturday and Sunday with the company installing fixtures and furnishings. It's important to note that this is thought to be just a temporary location for Thrifty White Pharmacy. The goal of the City's leadership was to keep any time without an open pharmacy to an **absolute minimum**. Identifying a permanent location is a matter that is left largely up to private market forces in such cases. So, although the City will assist in any way that we are asked to in that

process, the City will remain objective and let the parties work out those matters.

The City's leadership has had a great deal of conversation with Thrifty White Pharmacy's top management, including their CEO and President; and we have been pleased See **PHARMACY**, Page 3

SEVERE SIDEWALK FALLS

Enforcing the policies in City Code on sidewalks is one of the least favorite duties your City officials. To an adjoining property owner, the sidewalks for which they are responsible are often an unpopular and even contentious subject. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice can be a seemingly constant battle during the winter months. However, there is not a winter that passes without significant injuries from falls. We see residents of all ages that suffer falls due to poorly maintained sidewalks, but the consequences are typically far more severe for the elderly fall victims.

There are several trends converging that underscore the need to be vigilant about sidewalk maintenance. Firstly, as traffic volumes continue to increase in our community, we see a trend towards more reliance on the City's sidewalk system. County and State transportation departments monitor traffic counts on major roadways in Cold Spring; we see those counts climb with each new test period. On Red River Avenue North the number of vehicle trips increased by 35% just from year 2000 to 2005. With increased traffic comes increased risk, and pedestrians have responded by relying on routes that have sidewalk access. See **SIDEWALKS**, Page 3

JAYCEES 4TH ANNUAL SOUP & CHILI BOWL

Get your spoons ready to dip into some of the tastiest soup and chili around at the Cold Spring Jaycees 4th Annual Soup and Chili Bowl to be held Saturday, January 30, 2010. From 5 to 11 pm at the Cold Spring Brewing Company Distribution Center, you can judge for yourself whose batch is the best in the competition by casting your vote for the People's Choice Award. There are 40 different recipes entered by individuals or restaurants that will be available while supplies last, so come early to taste one or two or even try to taste them all! Local dignitaries will get the final say by judging the entries in the other official categories and award the cash prizes.

Not only will there be outstanding soup and chili to enjoy – there will also be beverages and music. The Marv Nissel Band will play a variety of German, Polish, and country-flavored polka music from 5 – 8 p.m. and Sweet Siren will play top 40 hits along with classic rock and edgy country from 8 – 11 p.m. See **JAYCEES**, Page 3

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Attention all book lovers! In celebration of February, "I Love to Read" month, the Friends of the Cold Spring Library will be hosting a Book Sale. This sale is a popular one, with patrons excitedly lining up in the City Hall lobby waiting in anticipation for the Council Chambers doors to open. The sale starts on Thursday, February 18th from 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., and continues on Friday, February 19th from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, February 20th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The proceeds from this sale will go towards the Library Expansion Fund, which will be used to create more space for the Cold Spring Library.

The Friends of the Library need your help! The group is looking to community members to donate their current, gently used books, cds, videos or dvds, and audio tapes to the book sale. The Friends are especially in need of gently used children's books, cds and dvds.

Winter is a great time to go through your collections and see what you would like to share with others. Please bring your

donations to the Cold Spring Library and thank you for being such a great friend of the Cold Spring Library!



Readers look through titles at the 2009 Book Sale

COLD SPRING FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

This year the Cold Spring Fire and Rescue Department Relief Association will move its annual fundraiser event from Palm Sunday and combine it with the Fire Fest concert on July 31st 2010.

The popularity of the Fire Fest concert has grown each year, and this year promises to be another fun and entertaining event.

The relief association appreciates the support they have received from local residents and businesses on their past fundraisers and look forward to continued support for this year's fundraiser raffle at Fire Fest. Watch for further announcements in the *Cold Spring Record*.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The City will be taking applications to fill openings on several of the city appointed commissions including the Park Board, Economic Development Authority and Planning Commission. The openings come at a time when the City will be experiencing exciting changes in the coming months and years. Undoubtedly, the board members serving on these commissions will be involved in these changes, including expansion and development of new businesses, residential development, and upcoming park projects.

No experience is needed to participate on any of the boards, just a positive attitude and an interest in making beneficial decisions for improving our community. Board members are paid

\$25 per meeting, with the EDA and Planning Commissions meeting monthly, and the Park Board meeting quarterly. Current issues that each commission is working on are posted on the City website, each under their respective departments.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn more about the community you live and work in by serving on one of these boards. Applications are being accepted for each of these positions until Monday, February 8, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Pick up an application at City Hall or print an application from our website at www.coldspring.govoffice.com.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE

As the 2010 year begins, pet owners that haven't renewed their dogs license are reminded to renew them now to avoid paying a \$20 surcharge.

All dogs within the City are required to have a current license, which needs to be renewed each year by January 1st as regulated by City Ordinance. Currently, the fees are \$5 for a dog that is fixed and \$10 if it is not. In addition to the fee, a copy of the rabies shot is also required. Generally, rabies shots expire every two years. Pet owners still need to renew their license now even if their dog's shots don't expire until later in 2010.

We also encourage previous dog owners that no longer have their dog to call City Hall to have our records updated. All licenses renewed after January 31st will have a \$20.00 surcharge added to the license fee. Dog owners that fail to renew their dog licenses will be issued citations in March. For questions regarding dog licenses please call City Hall at 685-3653.

PARK RESERVATIONS FILLING UP

Already in January the City has taken 28 reservations for park shelter rentals in 2010. Since dates for park rentals are filling up quickly, the City would like to remind residents to call now to make a reservation.

The City wants to make sure that since residents' tax dollars go towards the parks and facilities that they are available for City residents to rent. The benefits of hosting an event at a park shelter instead of your home are many, including a convenient location, reasonable fee, large seating area and ease of preparation and clean-up.

The shelters at Frogtown, Lions, and Pioneer Parks are available for rental by calling City Hall at 685-3653. Call today to choose your preferred park shelter for your special date. Don't delay or you may miss out on your pick of the parks.



UPCOMING VEHICLES FOR SALE

Watch the *Cold Spring Record* for forfeiture vehicles coming up for sale within the next six months from the Cold Spring-Richmond Police Department. Sales will possibly include a 1996 Buick, 1996 Volvo Wagon and two 1997 Chevrolet Monte Carlos.

FROM PAGE 1 PHARMACY

with how well that relationship has gone. We've been told that they've been equally pleased with the assistance that the City has provided to them during a crazy, but immensely successful period of about one week.

A second goal for the City in this process has been to preserve the jobs for the employees of our existing drug store. The City communicated this message clearly to Thrifty White Pharmacy throughout the hurried process, and we are very proud to report that they appear to have taken this request to heart. We hope and expect that in the near future the same friendly and reliable staff will be assisting you with your prescriptions.

The team that worked so hard on this process over the past week has been impressed with how it appears that this company will likely be a much improved fit for Cold Spring. Thrifty White is a company that has been in existence for 126 years. Their locations are in smaller, rural communities and are exclusive to the Midwest. They are a Minnesota-based company with their headquarters in Maple Grove. Perhaps more important than any of these traits, the company is 100% employee-owned. If you'd like to learn more for yourselves, check out their website: <http://www.thriftywhite.com/>.

There are countless studies as well as first-hand accounts from our Cold Spring businesses about the benefits of money that is spent and re-spent in our town when residents shop in Cold Spring. Accordingly, it was critical that we keep this core business in our community. Many residents expressed the very same concern that City officials felt upon receiving the news of the closing; that if our residents are forced to travel to other communities to buy their prescriptions there may be a tendency for them to purchase other goods such as groceries, hardware and home supplies there as well.

It is hoped that the effort invested in this project over the past week will serve as a reminder to all of us of the importance of the credo...shop locally!

FROM PAGE 1 SIDEWALKS

There is also a growing trend of people walking more than they have in the past, for health and recreation, but also for conducting short errands. Finally, Cold Spring, like most communities is seeing an aging of its population. Using the *Minnesota State Demographic Center* projections, Cold Spring will see an increase in residents 85 and older by 56%; ages 75 to 84 by 49%; and ages 65 to 74 by 100%.

City officials have seen the three most severe sidewalk falls in the past twelve months that we've ever witnessed. City staff has witnessed the visible effects of these falls, and words truly cannot describe the incredible harm. Not knowing the circumstances, an observer would guess that the injuries were the result of a very severe car accident. Yet not all falls occur in winter; in fact, one of the most severe recent falls occurred during the summer months. Cracked or heaving sidewalks pose just as much of

a threat as ice, and perhaps more because pedestrians tend to be more cautious during winter conditions.

Property owners are responsible for any sidewalks on adjoining boulevards and are potentially liable if property maintenance efforts are not made.

So what can you do to protect yourselves and others? Most of your effort should focus on keeping the sidewalk in the best condition possible during winter. If you wait too long to remove snow after it has fallen or blown onto the sidewalk it will likely be a challenge to gain that ground back. Make arrangements with a neighbor to maintain your sidewalk for those periods when you're out of town and be sure to do the same for them. During thaw-freeze periods this can be a real challenge, so the key is to be diligent when the weather warms. Salt, combined with your scraping efforts, will be most effective when temperatures are near or above the freezing mark.

Each spring do a quick inspection of your sidewalk to determine if there are any trip hazards. In nearly all cases the City has policies that provide considerable assistance in correcting those conditions...so you're not alone. If you have doubts about the condition of your sidewalk, feel free to contact Public Works and they will gladly stop by and guide you.

FROM PAGE 1 JAYCEES

The event is free to attend. Soup, chili, and beverages will be available for purchase. The soup and chili being served by the contestants will be available only while supplies last. Other food items from area vendors will be available all evening. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Rocori Trail and other community needs. The Jaycees will also be accepting donations for the local food shelf, so grab an item or two from your pantry before leaving

home to slurp and sip your way through the best soup and chili our area has to offer.



Winners from the 2009 Soup and Chili Bowl

WINTER SEASON REMINDERS

- Winter Parking Regulations

Anytime we receive **an inch or more** of *falling* or *blowing* snow, all vehicles must be removed from the City streets. Parking tickets will be issued and in some cases vehicles can be towed.

- Clearing Sidewalks

Residents and businesses are required to remove the snow or ice from the sidewalk in front of their property. After the

snow stops falling residents have **twelve hours** to remove the snow and ice from their sidewalk.

- **Garbage Cans**

Public Works Department reminds residents on trash days to place their garbage containers on the boulevard, not in the street. Snowplows cannot easily maneuver around garbage cans and end up knocking them over if they are in the street.

- **Street Light Outages**

Residents should watch for and report streetlight outages to City Hall at 685-3653. It is important that the streetlights be working during the winter months when there are less hours of daylight.

- **Fire Hydrants**

The Fire Department needs your assistance in clearing the snow from around hydrants. In the case of a fire, valuable minutes can be saved by providing firefighters direct access to a hydrant.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT WITHDRAWAL

The City continues to accept applications for customers to sign up for automatic payment withdrawal for utility accounts. Currently, there are 136 customers that have signed up for this program. Those interested in learning more or signing up for automatic payment withdrawal should contact City Hall.

2010 BAND DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE

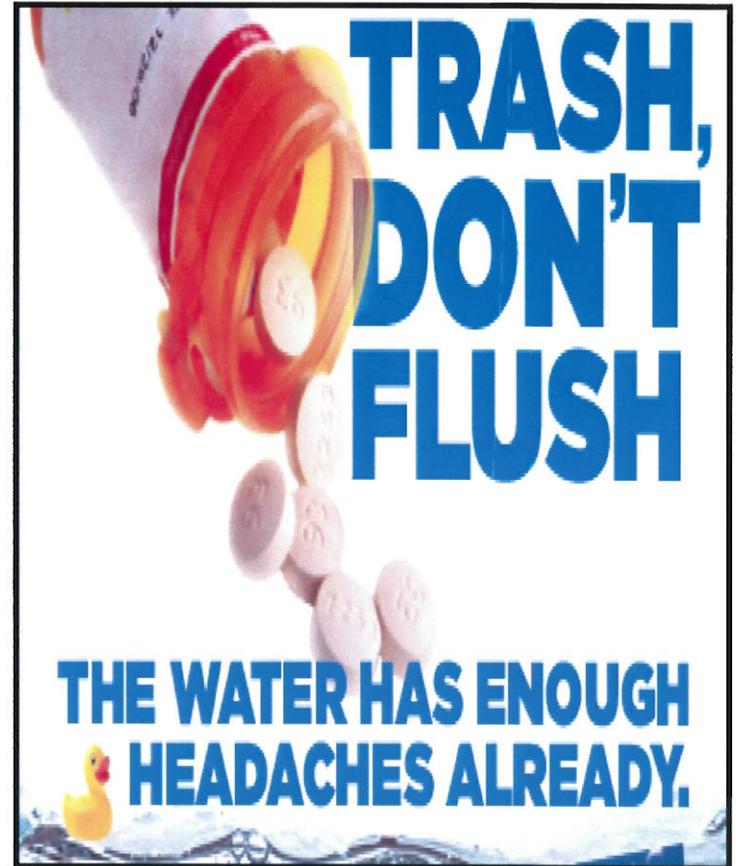
Whether it be a saxophone, trumpet, or clarinet the sounds of the Rocori Band students' instruments aren't possible without the much needed support of their local community. From now until the end of February, Rocori Band members will be selling discount cards as a fundraiser. The cards which sell for \$10.00 feature discounts at 31 different local businesses and are good for the entire year of 2010. From the cost of the card, \$5.00 goes directly towards the member's quota for the year, making it a great fundraiser for the money they desperately need.

If you don't happen to know one of the many talented members of the Rocori Band, you can contact Julie

**CITY OF COLD SPRING
27 RED RIVER AVE. SO.
COLD SPRING, MN 56320**

Heying to purchase a discount card at 656-9475 or to learn more about the specific discounts available on the card.

Help our local Rocori Band keep tooting their horns by supporting their fundraising efforts.



Flushing unused medication down the toilet or drain can contaminate our vulnerable water resources and harm fish, other wildlife or people. Instead, do the water friendly thing and dispose of medications in your household trash. Exact methods vary by medication and you can find specific details at www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/hhw/pharmaceuticals.html. It's the right prescription for safer water, and one more water hazard we can all avoid.

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