Mendota News



**City of Mendota**

**P O Box 50688**

**Mendota, MN 55150**

**Phone: 651-322-0827**

**Email:**

[cityofmendota@gmail.com](mailto:cityofmendota@gmail.com)

**Billie Jo Rassat, City Clerk**

**Council Members:**

**Brian Mielke, Mayor**

**Joan Perron**

**Alan Ralston**

**Melody Rasmussen**

**Kathleen Krotter**

**Building Official:**

**Mike Andrejka**

**For Inspections and Permits call: 612-597-9667**

**Chief of Police:**

**Mike Aschenbrener**

**City Attorney:**

**Tom Lehmann**

**651-439-2878**

**The City of Mendota holds City Council Meetings at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of the month at the VFW Post 6690**

**1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy.**

**Mendota, MN 55150**

**Spring 2015**

**The Mendota Day committee is in full gear planning the annual event that will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2015. The committee is currently looking for ideas, suggestions and opinions to make your experience better than ever. Please visit** [**www.facebook.com/MendotaDay**](http://www.facebook.com/MendotaDay) **for continuous information and to post any suggestions you may have.**



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***Highway 13/Resurface and Drainage project***

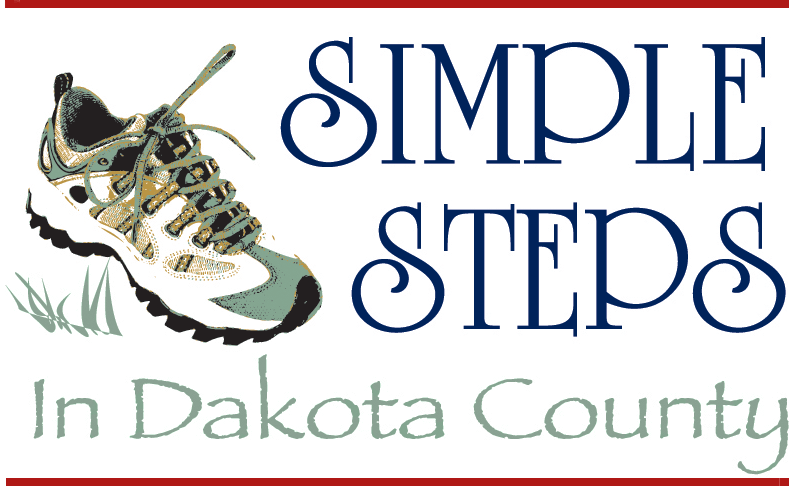
There will be an upcoming improvement project on Highway 13 between 2nd Street in Mendota and Interstate 35E in Lilydale that will resurface the road and improve drainage. Part of the Highway 13 project will require closing both directions of Highway 13 between 2nd Street and Lexington Ave. Improvements to the drainage will begin as early as mid-June. In addition, the Big Rivers Regional Trail will likely require short–term closures as work is completed. After the project is completed in August 2015, Highway 13 will be a smoother road that is better protected from hillside washouts.

For more information about this project or to sign-up for email updates visit:

mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy13mendota/ or contact Kirsten Klein, MnDOT public Affairs 651-234-7506 or [kirsten.klein@state.mn.us](mailto:kirsten.klein@state.mn.us).

**Simple Steps** is a free walking program offered by Dakota County. Simple Steps is designed to encourage people to be physically active. As you know, regular physical activity is one of the most important things a person can do for their health, helping prevent chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Walking is one of the easiest ways to be physically active, and is safe for most people.

Simple Steps is free and easy to participate in – here’s how the program works:

·         Sign-up on [Dakota County’s website](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/HealthyLiving/FitnessExercise/Pages/simple-steps.aspx).

·         Record minutes walked April 1 - July 31.

·         Record minutes walked for six weeks

and receive a handy Simple Steps shoe wallet.

·         Simple Steps participants also receive motivational newsletters,

chances to win gift cards from local businesses, and can

join the conversation on the [*Simple Steps* Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/DakotaCountySimpleSteps).

For more information or to register, go to the [Simple Steps webpage](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/HealthyLiving/FitnessExercise/Pages/simple-steps.aspx).

Questions? Need materials? Contact Simple Steps at [SimpleSteps@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:SimpleSteps@co.dakota.mn.us) or by phone at [651-554-6100](tel:651-554-6100).

Be positive – spring is on the way!

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 The Mendota Heights Police Department offers free car seat installation advice and car seat installations by appointment.   Appointments will be available one evening a month.  Car seat installations take approximately 30 min.  To check available dates, please go the City of Mendota Heights web-site. Appointments can be requested online or by contacting Officer Jennifer Fordham at 651-452-1366.  Also feel free to contact her in regards to other seat check resources in the St. Paul area.

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***Tornado Siren Activations to drop 75% in 2015 - If you hear a siren find out why they are going off!***  
  
Between 2010 to 2014 outdoor sirens were activated on average 12 times per year. This was based on the former policy where Dakota County and city emergency managers set off sirens for tornado warnings and all severe thunderstorm warnings.  
  
The new policy continues to activate the outdoor warning sirens during tornado warnings but changes to a sustained wind speed criteria to decide when to activate sirens during a severe thunderstorm warning. Effective immediately outdoor sirens will sound when wind speeds are expected to meet or exceed 70 miles per hour.  
  
If the new policy had been in effect over the past five years use of outdoor warning sirens across Dakota County would have been reduced by 75 percent.  
  
For more information please check the Dakota County or Mendota Heights websites.

**The Recycling Zone**

3365 Dodd Road

Eagan, MN

**651-905-4520**

The Recycling Zone is located off Highway 149 between Yankee Doodle Road & Highway 55 in Eagan.

**Books**

The Dakota County Library, non-profit organizations and used bookstores accept gently used books.

[**Books for Africa**](http://www.booksforafrica.org/)   
651-602-9844

[**The Children’s Chance, Inc.**](http://thechildrenschance.org/)   
763-545-2708



**Drop-Off Hours for Residents**  
Wednesday 9 a.m.–8 p.m.

Thursday: noon–8 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Household chemicals and hazardous waste accepted:**

For your safety and The Recycling Zone employee safety, place household chemicals in a box

when transporting. Product contents should be labeled and in the original package.

Never mix or pour household chemicals together.

**A complete list can be found on Dakota County web-site.**

* Antifreeze
* Auto batteries
* Fire extinguishers
* Home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets)\*
* Household cleaners
* **Latex/oil paint**
* Lawn and garden products
* Mercury thermometers
* Pesticides
* Pool and spa chemicals
* Propane tanks/gas cylinders
* Used oil/filters
* Accepting most products labeled dangerous, flammable, poison, combustible or corrosive.

**\*Place sharps into a rigid container such as plastic laundry detergent bottle with the lid taped shut and label the container "Do not recycle: household sharps."**

**Did You Know?**

Every Puffs tissue box is made at the Rock-Tenn Co. facility in St. Paul, often out of your reclaimed telephone books.

Earth Day is

April 22

**Electronics (E-Waste) Recycling**

Materials Accepted from Residents:

* TV's
* Computers
* Computer peripherals
* VCRs
* DVD players
* Fax machines

**Free recycling for Dakota County residents.**

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**Backyard Composting**

Page Content

Composting is an easy way to reduce waste while improving your yard and garden soils. Backyard composting turns organic wastes—grasses, leaves, and garden debris, vegetable and fruit scraps— into a nutrient-rich mixture that you can add to your yard or garden. It’s easy to get started.

**Begin with a bin**   
Box compost bins are sold at [The Recycling Zone](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingZone/Pages/default.aspx). Compost bins can also be purchased at many retail and garden stores.  You can also build your own compost bin.

**What goes in a compost pile** **What stays out**

Grass clippings Food with meat, dairy, or oils

Leaves Pet feces

Garden debris Diseased plants

Vegetable and fruit scraps Weeds gone to seed

Coffee grounds Ash from charcoal or coal

Egg shells

Sawdust and wood chips

Cornstalks and straw

**Maintain the pile—aerate and moisten**

Keep your compost pile aerated and moist. To get good usable compost sooner, turn the pile with a pitchfork or shovel about once each week. The microbes need oxygen or they will give off a rotten-egg smell. Add moisture by watering your pile if needed.

**Use the finished compost**   
By using compost, you can dramatically improve your soil and reduce your use of fertilizers and water.

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