

A Message from the Village President (Mayor), Harold J. Mire Jr.

Dear Resident(s);

Wow, what an exciting and rewarding first few months it has been serving as your Village President. In our continuing effort to improve and enhance communication with you, I would like to take a few moments to provide you with an update since our last correspondence.

1. Our new design for our website is still a work in progress.
2. The Village Clerk has attended Facebook classes and our Facebook page is up and running. We are excited to have more platforms to distribute information to each and every one of you as well as offer links to our local merchants' Facebook pages so you can see the types of services offered here locally.
3. I held my first Business Owner's meeting on August 29, 2017 and want to thank the owners and Trustees who attended. There were some great ideas offered that we can use to help promote our merchants and our Village as we move forward together.
4. Thanks to our Public Works Department for their hard work in getting our Flags on the poles along Route 84 and thanks to all of you for the positive comments and flag donations. We are still accepting flag donations as we would like to add some military branch flags to the other side of the street. Please contact the Village Hall if you are interested in making a donation.
5. The cemetery survey has now been completed and thanks to the office staff for their support in this effort.
6. We are awaiting engineering recommendations for an erosion control project on the 17th Street Hill.
7. Security Cameras have been installed both inside and outside of Village Hall.
8. We tentatively approved extending the Law Enforcement contract with Hampton PD for three more years with no increase in rates for the first two years and a one percent increase in the third year. Final action on the contract will be taken at our October meeting. Hampton has been a great partner in this endeavor and we thank them.

I would now like to address the subject of water, sewer, garbage and tax levy rates individually.

WATER RATES

For those of you who may have come to live in our Village after October 2014 or those of you who may not recall, I would like to share a brief history of water/sewer rates. From April 2009 to October 2014, the combined basic water and sewer rate was \$61.50 per month. In October 2014, the Village Board **reduced** the combined basic water and sewer rate to \$60.00 per month; \$25.00 for water and \$35.00 for sewer. Therefore, the last 8 years has seen only a decrease in the basic combined rate for water and sewerage; a feat few municipalities could ever hope to achieve.

As some of you may know and to those of you who don't and in the interest to proactively provide efficient water service to all our residents, it is imperative that we fund the 18th Street Water Main Connection which will allow us to have a continuous water service loop for the Village. Some advantages to the completion of this water loop are that it will potentially allow for less service disruption to residents when parts of the system have to be taken down and it will also improve water pressure to many of the residents who currently experience low water pressure in certain parts of the Village. The estimated cost for completion of this project in June of 2015 was approximately \$200,000. We anticipate the cost to be slightly more moving forward. Additionally, there will be a need to purchase additional equipment as well as maintenance to the Water Tower.

The current funding mechanism for the water system and its improvements is derived strictly from water fees. Therefore after considering the options available to the Village and in order to improve the water system for the Village, I reluctantly came to the conclusion that a minimal fee increase in the water rate was the only reasonable option to recommend to the Board.

I recommended and the Board approved a \$3.00 increase to the basic monthly water rate changing the rate from \$25.00 per month to \$28.00 per month. Additional rates in excess of the basic rate changed minimally as well.

So here's what the rate change means to you. The average residential customer will see an increase of \$3.48 per month per unit. Some will be only \$3.00 per month per unit, those using less than 2000 gallons, and some will be slightly higher, those using more than 2000 gallons, but \$3.48 is the approximate average increase. For businesses, our biggest commercial customer will see an increase of approximately \$20.11 per month and our second biggest commercial user will see an increase of approximately \$7.81 per month. These new rates will go into effect January 1, 2018.

I understand an increase in any amount is distasteful to some, if not most, including myself. However, please keep in mind that this allows us to continue to remain debt free and complete important projects.

SEWER RATES

After reviewing the Sewer Fund Account, **I recommended and the Board agreed that there would be NO INCREASE in the Sewer rates.** However, please remember that rates could be impacted in the future by our Sewer provider, The City of East Moline. As you may recall, rates were increased to the Village in 2015 but the Board did not pass on those increases to residents as there were sufficient funds in the Sewer account to cover those increases.

WASTE (GARBAGE) COLLECTION RATES

The current Waste Schedule Contract and Rates expire on June 30, 2019. The Village currently charges residents \$12.00 per month per unit. Beginning on July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, the Village was charged \$12.22 per month per unit. Likewise beginning on July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018, the Village was and will be charged \$12.47 per month per unit and beginning July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019, the Village will be charged \$12.72 per month per unit.

Since July 2016, the Village has been charging residents less for waste collection than what the Village is charged; basically drawing down on the Waste Fund surplus. Based upon the existing and projected surplus, **I recommended and the Board agreed that there be NO INCREASE in the Waste Collection Rates through the end of this contract.** This action, past, present and future, will have saved the residents from July 2016 through June 2019 a total of approximately \$6,600 collectively. Anytime government can give back and help residents keep money in their own pocket that's a great thing.

TAX LEVY 2017

As many of you know, the Village reduced its property tax rate last year, a fact we can all be proud of. I am once again very proud to report that **I recommended and the Board approved NO INCREASE in the property tax rate levy and to retain the current property tax rate of .5761.** This will lead to a very slight reduction in actual dollars collected but it is manageable. We are, and I hope you are too, very proud of the fact that our Village continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates in the State and that **we remain DEBT FREE!**

I will be hosting my second **TOWN HALL MEETING ON OCTOBER 18, 2017 AT 6:00PM at the VILLAGE HALL.** I hope to see you there so we can share our vision for the future of the Village. Your constructive criticisms and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. Please enjoy our newsletter.

Thank you for allowing the Board of Trustees and myself the honor of serving you.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Mire, Jr.
Village President (Mayor)
Village of Rapids City

Mayor Harold Mire Jr. would like to invite all residents to Rapids City Village Hall on October 18th at 6pm for a Town Hall Meeting.

Regular board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m.. All meeting minutes will be posted on our website once approved.

Please see additional pages for a message from our Mayor Harold Mire Jr..

WATER UTILITY SERVICE NOTICE: Voted at the September 12th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, Effective January 1st, 2018 Water Utility Rate Ordinance will change as follows:

- Base monthly rate will be \$28.00 for use of 2,000 gallons or less
- Next 1,000 gallons or more: \$ 2.30 per 1000 gallons
- First 25,000 gallons or less in excess of 25,000 gallons per month: \$ 2.09 per 1,000 gallons
- All additional gallons in excess of 50,000 gallons per month: \$ 1.99 per 1,000 gallons.

In an effort to keep down the cost of sewer to our residents we are asking everyone's cooperation by correcting any situations on your property that allows surface and ground water to enter the Village sanitary sewer.



New 2018 waste calendar will be available for pick up at the Village Office beginning in December. The calendars are a helpful tool to let you know when your recycle will be picked up as well as delays when holidays occur.

Waste pick up will be delayed as follows for the 2017 holidays:
Saturday, November 25th
Saturday, December 30th.

The last day for yardwaste disposal for the year will be November 25th 2017. No yardwaste will be taken after November 25th, 2017. Yardwaste stickers are still available for purchase at the Village Office. If you plan to have out yardwaste please contact the Village Office to arrange a special pickup.

As always, be sure all waste is placed out for pick up by 7a.m. to ensure pick up.



Please help with keeping the culverts clean & not blocked. Raking leaves & debris into the streets plugs the storm drains, which causes flooding in yards & streets. Burning leaves in the streets is prohibited by ordinance and a ticket may be issued. Be sure you are compliant with the Village Burning Ordinance by finding the ordinance at <https://www.rapidscity.us> before burning leaves.

In an ongoing effort to save the Village money, your Village Board has approved to gradually switch our street lights to LED lighting as the current lights become inoperable. This is projected to save the Village approximately \$25.00 per street light per year. If you see a street light out you can report it at <https://www.midamericanenergy.com>, call MidAmerican Energy or contact Village Hall.



Did you know you can find us on Facebook now? Please like or follow us to get up to date information; just search Village of Rapids City. Village businesses are welcome to provide a link for us to add to the Village page to promote our local economy.

Trick or Treating hours will be from 5pm to 7pm on October 31st. The Hampton Police Department will be patrolling our neighborhoods ensuring everyone has a safe & fun Halloween. Be sure to say Hi! to an Officer and get some candy!



This Veteran's Day consider honoring America and our Military Service Men and Women by donating to the flag display along Route 84. Flag sponsorship donations are \$50.00. The flags will be displayed on appropriate holidays along the Route 84 corridor. For more information or to sponsor a flag please call or visit the Village Office.

Village staff along with MSA Engineering have completed an extensive research and survey project identifying a total of 470 Rapids City Cemetery plots that are still available for sale. Rapids City residents are able to purchase plots at a cost of \$150.00 per plot currently. If you are interested in more information about our cemetery, please feel free to contact the Village Office during business hours.



The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a community blood drive on Saturday, December 16th from 8 am to noon at the Rapids City Community Center. The Mississippi Valley Regional blood center is the provider of blood components to more than 90 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In your area MVRBC is the exclusive provider to Genesis Health Systems and Unity Point Health Quad Cities. Blood donation is a safe; a simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to an hour and can save up to 3 lives with each donation. Potential donors must be 17 years of age (16 with parental permission available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo Id is required to donate. For questions on eligibility or to sign up please call MVRBC at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Last date to donate elsewhere and be eligible at this drive is: 10/21/17.

The Rapids City Community Center is available for rent for your special events. Effective January 1st, 2018 Community Center rates will change as follows:

- Major/Special Events and Wedding Receptions All Day - \$350.00 Non Resident; \$250 Resident
- Non-Profit Private Events All Day - \$150.00; \$150.00 deposit
- Hourly events - \$40.00 Non-Resident; \$30.00 Resident per hour with a 4 hour minimum
- Non-Profit Public Events – NO CHARGE; \$150.00 deposit
- Damage/Security Deposits - \$150.00 for resident and \$250.00 for non-resident
- Hourly instructional classes - \$11.00 per hour.

Any booking made prior to the rate change will be honored at the current rate. Our Community Center is a great place to host your birthdays, showers, weddings, and anniversary parties. You may find information on renting the Community Center at www.rapidscity.us or by calling the Village Office. With the holidays coming up please call soon to see if your date is available!

Government, community, utility and ordinance information is available on our website: www.rapidscity.us