

SUMMER 2017

# CITY OF RICE NEWSLETTER

205 Main St E PO Box 179 Rice MN 56367  
(320)393-2280 Phone (320)393-3180 Fax

## City Water/Sewer Rates

The water and sewer systems in our City have been running over 30 years with no upgrades or replacements and although the City of Rice strives to save its residents as much money as they can, it costs money to maintain these systems so we can produce quality water and sewer systems. The City of Rice currently has the lowest rates in the area and the last time the rates were raised were in 2009. To maintain and continue to grow with the needs of the city, the City council finds it necessary to raise the water and sewer rates to meet those needs. The following projects are needed for the overall maintenance of our water and sewer systems: Well 2 Inspection in the amount of \$10,000, Well 1 Inspection in the amount of \$10,000, Upgrades to Lift Stations 3 and 5 in the amount of \$70,000, Lift Station 1 upgrade with a back-up and power supply in the amount of \$109,000, and a Water Treatment plant upgrade and pump maintenance in the amount of \$150,000. The amount of these projects are estimated to be over \$300,000 as the City is recommending an increase of \$45,000 in the water/sewer fund annually in order to prepare for these needed costs.

The City Council has postponed the increase as long as possible, but the needs make the increase necessary now. The City Council is looking a \$3 base increase to the sewer and water base rates, a 10% increase in tier two and three, and add a fourth tier of 18,000 gallons and over with an estimated 10% increase. The City of strives to provide high-level maintenance and service to its residents.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Mayor or any of the Council members.

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### Monthly Meetings

- RICE CITY COUNCIL - MEETS THE 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH 7PM
- PLANNING COMMISSION - MEETS THE LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH 7PM
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 5:15PM

## Benton County Emergency Notification System



The City of Rice is requesting that all City residents are aware of and sign-up for the Swift Reach Emergency Notification system in case of severe weather and other emergencies. The Emergency Mass Notification System calls you if there is an emergency in your area. The County relies on public records for phone numbers. If you have a cell phone number you will not be called with emergency information unless you sign up with the county emergency system.. The Benton County Sheriff and City Police Department will also use the system to alert neighborhoods of any crime alerts.

Sign up for Swift Reach is available on the Benton County Emergency Management website and reminders are also put out via Facebook. Here is the link for sign up: [http://www.co.benton.mn.us/Emergency\\_Notification\\_System.php](http://www.co.benton.mn.us/Emergency_Notification_System.php)

It is important that our residents are informed and safe when emergencies occur!

Thank you for your help!

## GovPayNet Online Payment Option

**City of Rice Residents can now pay their bills online!**

Follow this link to pay your utility bill:

<https://govpaynow.com/gps/user/plc/a0012w>

Follow this link to pay miscellaneous bills (Building Permits, Building Rentals, Pet Licenses, etc.):

<https://govpaynow.com/gps/user/plc/a0012x>

Visit our website at [www.cityofrice.com](http://www.cityofrice.com) for more information.

# Rice Family Fun Days

The Rice Family Fun Day committee is once again planning the annual Fun Day event that will fall on August 19th, 2017 this year. Afternoon activities will include kids games, inflatables, kiddie and main parade, water fights, volleyball and softball tournaments, food vendors and much more! Please check out the City website for up to date activities and approximate times. Please consider donating to this day of community gathering and fun for everyone. All donations go directly to the Rice Family Fun Day Event and any donation is greatly appreciated. Any questions please contact Kristi O'Brien at 320-492-7972.

## Vacant Subdivision Lots

It has been brought to the City's attention that there has been dumping of grass clippings and numerous other materials in vacant lots in subdivisions throughout the City.

Just a reminder that there shall be no public or private dumping or depositing of garbage, rubbish, refuse, or other waste material, within the City limits. Violation of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$300.

## *Rice City Hall News*

### City Hall will be Closed:

Monday Sept 4, 2017 for

Labor Day

### Rice Comprehensive Parks and Trail Plan Open House

Join us at City Hall on August 9th at 6 PM to review the final draft of the Rice Comprehensive Parks and Trails plan!



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## **NEW City Hall Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday 8 A.M.— 6 P.M.

Starting July 1st, 2017 City Hall will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday

### Rice Compost Site Hours

Tuesday 4-7pm

Thursday 4-7pm

Saturday 10-2pm

Items accepted are grass clippings, small tree branches and vegetative materials

Prohibited items are treated wood, concrete, and landscape materials.

City of Rice residents are free

Township residents permit is \$25.00 for the year and \$5.00 for the day

### City of Rice Water Restrictions

The city has adopted an ODD / EVEN system for watering during the summer months. Residents with an ODD house number are permitted to water on ODD days and those with an EVEN house number are permitted to water on EVEN days. 30 day watering permits are available in the City Offices