

# Take caution around open water, newly formed ice

With the continued surge in the number of people recreating outdoors this year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that lakes and ponds across the state have started to freeze, and where there isn't ice, the water is dangerously cold.

Ice thickness is highly variable at this time of year and subject to Mother Nature's whims. Even where there isn't ice, the water is so cold that an unexpected fall in can be deadly. It is vital to talk with children, who are

naturally curious about the water, about staying safe.

"The first ice-fishing trip of the season is exciting, but there's no fish that is worth falling through the ice," said Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "Vigilance around the water at this time of year isn't just a good idea - it's an absolute necessity."

Anglers and others who recreate on the ice should stay on shore until there's at least 4 inches of new, clear ice. Anytime people are on the ice, they should check

its thickness every 150 feet. Smith urges people to check ice thickness for themselves rather than deciding to walk on the ice based on what they've heard or read.

Each year, unexpected falls into cold water lead to serious injury and death. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to avert tragedy, since the initial shock of falling into cold water can incapacitate even strong swimmers. Carrying a good set of ice picks can help a person get out if they fall through the ice, and a cell

phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they will be able to call for help.

**The minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice are:**

- 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- 8-12 inches for a car or small pickup.
- 12-15 inches for a medium truck.
- Double these minimums for white or snow-covered ice.

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## SANTA TO COME TO DEER CREEK

ability for the city to act as a conduit for financing of the new hospital.

The council had previously agreed to do this, but the project has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the matter was revisited. The council again gave preliminary approval for the city to act as a conduit issuer.

The council also approved the minutes from the election canvassing board meeting that was held on Nov. 17. Mayor-elect Troy Beiswenger was in attendance at the council meeting, and outgoing Mayor Tom Svarvari remarked that he ex-

pected an "easy transition" for the new mayor. Svarvari had chosen not to seek reelection.

Chad Keskitalo was also elected to the council. One council position still remains to be filled.

The police report for October was not available at the meeting.

The council reviewed and approved receipts and cash balances for October, which Svarvari commented "looked pretty good."

The Deer Creek Express Stop off-sale liquor license was also approved.

The council discussed whether or not to hold "Santa Day" in town this December in view of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the area. Council members decided to plan a "walk-through" event on Saturday, Dec. 5 for children to greet Santa and receive a gift bag of candy, but with no other activities scheduled.

Water/Wastewater Operator Dan Kovar reported that pond discharging has been completed, and there



File photo

**The City of Deer Creek approved holding a modified Santa Day celebration on Saturday. Children will be able to visit Santa in a "walk-through" event. All of the other events originally scheduled on Saturday have been canceled. In years past Santa visited children in the Deer Creek Community Center (above).**

were no problems with the phosphate levels.

Councilor Jayme George reported that the fire de-

partment's new pumper/tanker truck is ready for use.

George also said he and Councilor Dan Hendershot would be trimming tree branches along the streets and putting up the city's Christmas decorations soon.

City Clerk/Treasurer Tom Parish informed the council that a Wellhead Protection Plan meeting was scheduled for Nov. 25.

Parish also reported that the city's proposed budget for 2021 is ready for councilors to review, and asked that they have any suggestions for changes ready for approval at next month's meeting.





# 14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

STARTING IN DECEMBER

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

# SANTA DAY

Come visit Santa!

**SATURDAY, DEC. 5TH**

DEER CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER • 10:30-12:30

WALK THROUGH SANTA VISIT  
TREATS FURNISHED

Happy Holidays from the City of Deer Creek!

## HENNING Santa Parade

& CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Come See Santa and the Henning Fire Dept. in a Christmas Parade throughout Henning!

Donations will be collected during the parade for the Henning Food Shelf and RMH Toy Drive!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

# Letter to Santa

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 4:00PM PARADE STARTS

Beginning at St. Edward's Church and ending at Landmark Center

\* TREE LIGHTING

following the parade at Landmark Center

Be sure to write your Letters to Santa and drop them off in time for his visit!

DROP OFF YOUR LETTER TO SANTA'S MAILBOX AT THE LANDMARK CENTER