

The logo for the Richfield Annual Report is positioned in the upper right corner of the page. It features a purple and blue graphic element on the left, with the word "RICHFIELD" in white capital letters on a blue background. Below this, the words "Annual Report" are written in a large, stylized, purple font with a white outline. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a field of tall grasses and trees under a clear sky.

RICHFIELD Annual Report

Dear Richfield residents:

South Prairie, Wood Lake Nature Center

The City of Richfield had a busy and eventful 2010. A few of the highlights include: significant construction progress on the new Municipal Center building, the partial completion of the new Metro Sewer Interceptor Project across Richfield, the completion of the new Lincoln Athletic Field complex, and maintaining a balanced budget despite suffering a mid-year loss of several hundreds of thousands of state aid dollars.

The most notable highlight of the year for the City was the substantial construction progress of the new Richfield Municipal Center. At approximately 98,000 square feet, the new facility will house the Police Department, Fire Department, Motor Vehicle Licensing, and City administration. Included is meeting room space that will be available for public use. Other new features include covered and secured parking for public safety vehicles, drive-through fire bays, and energy efficient building systems. The Municipal Center is set to open in the late spring of 2011.

The long awaited grand opening of the Lincoln Field complex occurred in June. This beautiful amenity features four ball fields, a concession building, batting cages, play equipment, and a play structure.

In July, the Metro Sewer Interceptor Project commenced. The project, which will span across the width of the entire City, began at both ends of the City, at Xerxes Avenue and Cedar Avenue. The public input process for the project resulted in different streetscapes for all the streets impacted by the construction. The majority of the project includes traffic calming features and multi-modal elements including on-street bike lanes, an off-street multi-use trail, and green boulevards with trees.

Progress on the Honoring All Veterans Memorial continued in 2010, including the addition of a fourth engraving tablet and the construction of a concrete plaza and sidewalk. The memorial, located appropriately in Richfield's Veterans Memorial Park, will continue to grow in the coming years. The centerpiece of the memorial is a statue of Charles Lindberg, a W.W. II hero from Richfield. The memorial is accessible from the American Legion Hall parking lot off of Portland Avenue.

Although there's much to be excited about, these are challenging times for the City of Richfield. The State has reduced the City's Local Government Aid over the years (from \$3.5 million in 1999 to just over \$1.2 million in 2010). Some steps have been taken over the years to help offset these budget constraints, including early retirement packages and staff reductions. Still, the City's financial position remains strong and poised to meet the fiscal challenges of 2011 and beyond.

Richfield Mayor and City Council

Looking Back at 2010

This report contains some of the City of Richfield's accomplishments and highlights over the past year.



Pam Dmytrenko and Steve Devich scored rave reviews for their "Out & About in Richfield" show. Watch them on Channel 16, Facebook, and the City website.



The new Richfield Municipal Center is scheduled to be completed late spring of 2011.



City Manager Steve Devich educates and informs on his Video Blog "City 101". Watch him on Channel 16, Facebook, and the City website.

Executive & Administrative Services Departments

Richfield Municipal Center

The start of 2010 marked the beginning of the construction of the new Richfield Municipal Center. In planning for over six years, the approximately 98,000 square foot facility will house Fire Station 1, Police, 911 Dispatching Center, Administration, Licensing, the City Council Chambers and three meeting rooms for public use. Under the supervision of Stahl Construction and Wold Architects & Engineers, the building has arisen next to the current City Hall, in fact, in some areas, only a few feet away! Once the building is completed in late spring, staff will move into the new facility. The old City Hall will then be demolished, making way for a new parking lot, rain garden and other landscaping. Heredia Park will be restored and available for use end of the summer/early fall.

City 101

City Manager Steve Devich wanted a way to both inform and educate the public on City related topics and timely issues that either directly affected or may be of interest to Richfield residents. With this goal in mind, "City 101" was created. "City 101" is a video blog, or vlog, that covers a variety of topics and issues right from the desk of the City Manager.

Facebook/Twitter

Facebook has been an outlet for photo and video updates for the Metro Sewer Project, Municipal Center construction, Parks and Recreation Services, Richfield Liquor Stores, Richfield Farmer's Market, "Out & About" and "Just-A-Minute" segments as well as the new "City 101." The main Richfield Facebook page has a following of 1,554 people and is growing each week. Our Twitter is also growing, with over 467 followers. Become a fan or follower today to receive your Richfield updates! Our Facebook and Twitter links are located on the back of this report.

Budget and Tax Levy

In December, the City Council approved the 2011 Budget and tax levy. The City will operate in 2011 with a balanced General Fund budget of approximately \$19.7 million. The 2011 gross tax levy represents an increase over the 2010 tax levy of 6.82%. The increase is comprised of four components; a General Fund Levy increase of 3.66%, a Debt Service Tax Levy that includes bonds for the new Richfield Municipal Center, a tax levy to recover a portion of the 2010 State aid reductions, and a tax levy for the Cedar Point Tax Abatement District.

Issuance of New Debt

During 2010, the City successfully issued Series 2010A bonds in the amount of \$1,500,000. These bonds will be used to fund various equipment acquisitions and to finance alley improvements. In addition, the City successfully refunded the \$8,350,000 G.O. Tax Increment Bonds, Series 2001A and realized a savings of approximately \$1,000,000 over the remainder of the life of the bonds.

City's Bond Rating

As part of the issuance process of the Series 2010A bonds, the City received an AA+ rating from Standard Poor's. This rating represented a two step increase from the City's previous rating of Aa3 received from Moody's Investor Services. The improved rating will translate into lower costs for City bond issues.

State Aid Reductions

During 2010, the City realized a reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA) of \$1.295 million. Fortunately for the City, the reduction in LGA was forecast to the City and the reduction was accounted for in the 2010 City Budget. However, the State reduced the City's share of Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) mid year 2010, by the amount of \$610,364. The total reductions of State Aid realized by the City in 2010 totaled approximately \$1.9 million. It has been forecast that the State's budget deficit issues will continue to the next biennium budget which could result in further reductions of LGA and MVHC for 2011 and beyond. In response to these possible future reductions, the City has made the decision to reduce its dependence on LGA by only budgeting for 25% of the 2011 certified amount.

Public Works Department

STREET MAINTENANCE AND ROAD PROJECTS

Metropolitan Council Sewer Project

Construction of the Metropolitan Council's new sanitary sewer line began in July. The contractor moved quickly across town installing the new 42" pipe and replacing most of the City's water, sewer, and storm utility pipes along the way. The road reconstruction includes new streetscape features including multi-use trails, boulevard trees, traffic calming features and undergrounding of parallel utility lines.

Phase 2 of construction will begin in April of 2011 and is expected to wrap up by the end of the year. A new railroad crossing signal with gate arms was installed at 76th Street ahead of the 2011 Metro Sewer work.

Alley Paving

Five unimproved alleys adjacent to the I-35W / Crosstown Project were paved with concrete this year; residents were assessed for 50% of the project cost.

Crosstown Reconstruction

The Minnesota Department of Transportation held the grand opening celebration of the Crosstown Reconstruction in November of 2010. The celebration marked the end of the four-year construction project and was a welcome break to the ongoing detours in and out of Richfield. The new configuration improves safety and mobility through the commons area.

Portland Avenue 4-to-3 Lane Conversion

As a result of the 2009 Arterial Roads Study, conducted by Richfield's Transportation Commission (a citizen advisory group) and in cooperation with Hennepin County's maintenance along Portland Avenue, the City implemented the Portland Avenue 4-to-3 Lane Conversion Pilot Project. The pilot will help the City determine both the benefits and shortcomings of a three-lane section so that they can be considered with future reconstruction projects along the City's main corridors.

Ultimately, the City Council adopted the Transportation Commission's recommendation of four-lane to three-lane conversion concepts on the major north-south arterials due to the benefits the conversion presents for safety, multi-modal mobility, traffic flow, on-street amenities and the improved quality of life that can be established with added sidewalk and bicycle accommodations along the corridors.

FORESTRY

Dutch Elm Disease – A total of 153 boulevard elm trees were removed because of this disease. Richfield crews removed 76 diseased trees, while a contractor removed the other 77. Franchise fees were used to fund removals by the contractor.

Emerald Ash Borer - The City has adopted an Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Policy. This policy includes:

- Removal of substandard trees that meet certain criteria
- Replanting of trees that have been removed
- Chemically injecting more desirable trees
- Time limits for removal of ash trees

Franchise fees will fund the injection of nearly 1000 ash trees per year.

UTILITIES

Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's)

The installation of Variable Frequency Drives and Motors (VFD's) at the City's seven well-houses was completed. Staff worked closely with Xcel Energy to ensure that all new equipment purchased and installed met the minimum efficiency standards to qualify for their rebate program. Xcel Energy selected Richfield to use as a case study because of the comprehensive effort put forth by the City to improve energy efficiency, increase reliability, and, ultimately, lower energy costs.

CENTRAL GARAGE

The Central Garage rebuilt two water trucks that were due for replacement. The total cost for replacing these units would have been approximately \$280,000.00. The heavy equipment mechanic rebuilt both units at a total cost of \$17,190.15.



Liz Finnegan will give video updates on the Metro Sewer Project, Phase 2. Watch her on Channel 16, Facebook, and the City website.



Portland Avenue was converted to 3 lanes between 68th Street and 78th Street.



Diseased ash trees were treated by injecting the chemical "Tree-age" to stop the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.



Two water trucks were rebuilt instead of replaced, saving the City \$262,809.85.

Community Development

INSPECTIONS

- Organizationally moved from Public Safety to Community Development.
- Issued more than 4,678 permits and performed over 6,261 inspections for construction related work.
- Over 537 homes received Point-of-Sale inspections.
- Issued rental licenses for 223 apartment buildings, 113 duplexes and 414 single family homes.
- Revenue from permit and rental license fees totaled approximately \$950,000.

PLANNING & ZONING

- Completed work to bring the City's Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. This process involved the rezoning of over 300 properties.
- The Council approved the City's first Interim Use Permit, which is a recently adopted zoning regulation that allows the City Council to approve otherwise ineligible uses for a time period of up to 5 years.

REDEVELOPMENT

- The City and HRA approved public financing (Tax increment Financing of \$800,000) and zoning for the 90-unit Woodlake Plaza apartment redevelopment project planned at the southeast corner of 64th Street and Lyndale Avenue.
- Received approximately \$680,000 in grant funding (from Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council) for the Woodlake Plaza apartment redevelopment project.
- Acquired two vacant and foreclosed properties along the 66th Street Corridor to facilitate future redevelopment of the area.
- Implemented a streetscape improvement grant program for Penn Avenue between TH 62 and 67th Street.
- Worked with Metro Transit to secure funding for the future development of a park and ride facility located at TH 62 and Penn Avenue.

HOUSING

- Expended over \$1 million in federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant funds to buy and rehabilitate five vacant and foreclosed homes.
- Two households purchased and rehabilitated foreclosed homes through the Foreclosure Purchase Incentive Program (FPIP).
- The HRA purchased eight sites (including one triple-lot) for new housing opportunities.
- One new home was built with assistance from the Richfield Rediscovered program.
- Six Richfield residents received Transformation Home Loans averaging \$13,700 to extensively remodel their homes.
- The Richfield HRA provided 27 families with rent assistance under the Kids @ Home Program. Two families graduated from the program and purchased their own homes. The HRA also administers the Section 8 Housing Vouchers for approximately 300 families living in Richfield.
- \$127,000 in Livable Communities Act grant funds were awarded for energy improvements to an apartment complex serving primarily low-income residents.
- Approximately six Community Development Block Grant deferred loans were awarded for home improvements through Hennepin County, averaging \$30,000 each.

Liquor Operations

SALES / CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Gross sales for the majority of 2010 were negatively affected by construction in the Crosstown Highway Corridor and the Met Council Sewer Project.
- The Liquor Operations Department contributed \$450,000 to the Special Revenue Fund for pre-determined recreation improvement projects.

DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

- Soffit, fascia, lighting and signage graphics were installed at the 64th Street and Lyndale Avenue location.
- Maintenance staff are currently establishing specifications to be bid to replace the aging HVAC system, and establish specifications to replace the roof and tuck pointed portion at the 64th Street and Lyndale Avenue location.

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

- In 2010 the four municipal liquor stores distributed over 2,000 "eco" bags to wine and spirit customers to re-use at the stores.



Six residents received Transformation Home Loans that averaged \$13,700.



The 2010 Richfield Remodeling Fair had an excellent turnout, including the Mayor.



Lyndale Liquor Store received an upgrade in its signage.



The Richfield Liquor Stores introduced some cross merchandising in 2010 with drink mixes.

Public Safety Department



The Richfield Police Department participated in many joint State and federal programs including "Safe & Sober."



Richfield Police and Fire put on another successful "Safety Day" in 2010.



Richfield Firefighters on scene of a house ablaze in early 2010.



The Fire Department received a grant to purchase a new "Fire Finder."

POLICE

- Added a narcotic-only canine; funding for the new canine was from a Justice Assistance Grant.
- Participated in a multi-jurisdictional bio terrorist exercise with the 55th US Army Civil Support Unit at the Best Buy Corporate Campus.
- Replaced all mobile speed radar devices with a Justice Assistance Grant.
- Working with Federal law enforcement agencies, assisted in major Human Trafficking Task Force.
- A vehicle tracking device and undercover listening device for narcotic investigations was purchased with a Justice Assistance Grant.
- Continued participation in the County-funded Joint Community Police Partnership.
- Expanded outreach to the Hispanic community with the second annual Spanish Police Academy and enhanced Cino De Mayo celebration.
- Police staff coordinated the 16th Annual Safety Day program for 60 fourth graders.
- The Department participated in the State's Safe & Sober traffic enforcement program.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Revisions were made in the areas of food, lodging and public pool codes in 2010 in order to continue to be able to inspect, license and enforce food, lodging and public pools in the City per the Minnesota Department of Health. Also approved was an updated delegation agreement with the State of Minnesota giving Richfield the authority to continue work in this area.
- The City Council reviewed the completed work of the Property Excellence Taskforce and made decisions on components of its final report.
- Staff continued to conduct proactive property maintenance inspections on the remainder of the City, as they have over the last three years, with the goal of completing the Neighborhood Sequential Inspection Program.

Fire Department

RESPONSE STATISTICS

In 2010, the Fire Department responded to 3700 fire medical and other emergencies. The average response time for the first fire truck to arrive was under 3.5 minutes. This translated into improved patient outcomes for those experiencing medical emergencies and a 89% property save-to-loss ratio from fires.

TRAINING

RFD trained regularly with neighboring fire departments to improve our Automatic Aid and joint response capabilities. Several members of RFD planned and participated in a large scale deployment to a simulated structural collapse. This drill involved over 300 responders from many emergency response disciplines across the state. RFD also participated with the police department in a large scale active shooter drill.

EQUIPMENT

A new fire pumper was placed into service at the end of 2010. This replaced a 16 year old truck that was becoming unreliable and expensive to maintain. Final design and monitoring construction of the fire station portion of the new Richfield Municipal Center is on-going.

BUDGET

A federal grant allowed the City to fill two open Firefighter positions and have the costs of those positions paid for two years. Filling those positions has reduced overtime expenditures significantly. A grant was received to replace an aging air compressor to refill firefighters' air bottles and a containment vessel to meet OSHA safety standards. RFD was selected to participate in a State of Minnesota program to collect data and study the effectiveness of emergency medical response and treatment provided. Approximately \$50,000 of revenue was generated participating in this program.

PROGRAMS

A new program implemented in 2010 was the PEAT (Physical Environment Assessment Tool) program. This program trained RFD personnel to better assess if factors in a person's living environment caused or contributed to their illness or injury. This information is passed on to the hospital emergency room staff and RFD personnel follow up with patients to help them correct the situation if they so desire.

Recreation Department

PROJECTS

- **Parks Ordinance Revisions** – The City Council adopted a new ordinance relating to conduct within City parks and recreation facilities; prohibiting tobacco use, feeding of wild animals, unleashed dogs, damage to park plants and trees and regulations on public bodies of water in parks
- **Lincoln Athletic Complex** - The renovation of Lincoln Athletic Complex was completed, including the construction of four fields to accommodate girls softball and boys baseball programs. The park includes a colorful concession stand and play equipment with a shade structure.
- **New Satellite Farmers Market** - This summer marked the 20th season of the Saturday Richfield Farmers Market and the first year of the satellite Friday Farmers Market at Roosevelt Park. The new satellite market was a great success as ten vendors sold out their products to an estimated 255 buyers every Friday for all nine weeks of the market.
- **Ice Arena Green Energy Reduction Project** - An energy retrofit project was completed at the Richfield Ice Arena and now is providing significant savings to energy costs. The total project included upgrades to the aging refrigeration system, installation of low-emissivity ceilings, lighting upgrades, water conservation measures, roof replacement, and a new building control system. The energy savings during 2010 has allowed the ice arena to trim over \$100,000 from its operating budget to help compensate for the reductions in budget cuts.
- **Richfield Recreation Expands Marketing to Social Networking** - The Richfield Recreation Services Department started several Facebook pages and shared news through mass emails and Twitter for the first time in 2010. In an effort to expand marketing opportunities, Facebook pages were created for the Richfield Ice Arena, Richfield Parks and Recreation, Richfield Farmers Market, Richfield Art Center, Honoring All Veterans Memorial, and the Urban Wildland Half Marathon & 5K. Watch for pages for the Richfield Pool, Adventure Gardens Miniature Golf, and Wood Lake Nature Center in 2011.



There was another great turnout for the Urban Wildland Half Marathon and 5K Races.



A new Farmers Market opened this year on Fridays in Roosevelt Park. The market ran until August.

- **Summer Food Program** - The summer of 2010 was a hugely successful year for the USDA-sponsored Summer Food Services Program. This was the seventh year that the Recreation Department participated in the program, but the first year that both breakfast and lunch were served. The Recreation Department served 9,457 breakfasts and 11,315 lunches for a total of 20,772 meals to youth 18 and under in just 28 days!
- **Honoring All Veterans Memorial** – The City's premier monument is now 85% complete. A fourth tablet, filled with the engraved names of Veterans was added to the monument, along with a lighted concrete plaza and sidewalk.
- **New Memorial Garden at Wood Lake Nature Center** - The Bill Carlson Waterfall Memorial Garden was added to the Gateway Gardens project this spring, funded by donations from family and friends of the late WCCO reporter. The pool provides a place for birds to bathe and greets visitors at the entrance with the soothing sound of water.
- **Urban Wildland Half Marathon and 5K** – The eighth-annual event was held on August 7 and was very successful and greener than ever this year. The race reached capacity, 1,550 runners, earlier than ever and more green features were added to the race: a solar-powered finish line, donation to a carbon-capture tree garden, shirts made from recycled plastic, shoe and medal recycling drop-off, free Metro Transit bus passes, and a carpool lot. New sponsors and a fee increase helped to make this year's event a financial success to continue to support the programs and facilities of Wood Lake.
- **Special Events at the Richfield Ice Arena and Richfield Pool** - During 2010, the Ice Arena increased its utilization by 50 hours to bring the total to 7,605 hours of ice skating activities. Included in the almost 8,000 hours of skating activities were two Minnesota Hockey Regional Tournaments and a Bantam A State Tournament. The Richfield Pool hosted the ABC Swim Meet again in 2010, which brought teams from all over the Midwest and with the hot summer, attendance totaled 40,153 visits in 68 days (up from the cooler summer of 2009 by 4,000 visits).
- **New Recreation Programs** – Several new Older Adult Recreation programs were generated as a result of suggestions received by seniors wanting programs that promote life-long learning, health and exercise, travel, volunteerism, and social interaction. One such program, Brain Fitness, teaches seniors how to keep their minds sharp as they age and attracted 47 participants.

Richfield Facebook Pages:

<http://www.facebook.com/richfieldmn>

<http://www.facebook.com/CityofRichfield>

<http://www.facebook.com/RichfieldFarmersMarket>

<http://www.facebook.com/RichfieldMunicipalCenter>

<http://www.facebook.com/RichfieldMetroSewerProject>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Richfield-Liquor-Stores/177460913700>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Richfield-Parks-and-Recreation/169593283056441>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/cityofrichfield>