

Woodbury City Update

January 2018 • Volume 19, No. 1



Residents invited to comment on Public Works project Feb. 20

The public is invited to learn more about the proposed expansion and remodeling of the city's Public Works and Parks Maintenance buildings and provide feedback at an open house Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Eagle Valley Golf Course, 2600 Double Eagle Lane.

The project, located along Tower Drive south of Valley Creek Road, proposes removing the original Public Works Building on the west side of Tower Drive and replacing it with a new 25,000-square-foot facility and an 18,800-square-foot, unheated shed that would house the city's vehicle and equipment fleet and maintenance services. The proposal also would add approximately 53,000 square feet and remodel the existing space at the current Public Works Building on the east side of Tower Drive to support operations for the next 10 years.

"Both buildings currently function for city parks maintenance operations and public works services such as snow plowing, water and sewer operations," said Klayton Eckles, Engineering and Public Works Director. "With the city's growth over the past decade, the demand for services and the amount of infrastructure have increased. As a result, the department's staff and equipment expanded and now have outgrown the available space."

The City Council will discuss funding options for the estimated \$20 million project at its Jan. 17 workshop before considering project approval at a future meeting in late winter or early spring. If approved, construction

would begin in spring 2018 and continue into 2019. The impact to local traffic on Tower Drive is expected to be minimal during construction. Public Works services would continue to be provided as seamlessly as possible.

The main Public Works facility on the east side of Tower Drive was built in 1993 and houses public works administration, streets, utilities, parks, and fleet services functions. The department's fleet of more than 100 vehicles and 230 pieces of equipment (e.g., mowers) also is currently stored and maintained at the main building, which was expanded in 2004.

The original Public Works Building on the west side of Tower Drive was constructed in 1967 as the original City Hall and remodeled three times over the past five decades. The use of the building has evolved from full department functions to its current use for parks maintenance services and equipment storage. Now that this building has reached the end of its useful life, it is more cost effective to remove it and construct a new building rather than completing another remodel.

Woodbury's Public Works Buildings house 68 full-time employees who provide services in the following divisions: fleet services, streets, utilities, parks maintenance and public works administration.

Contact the Woodbury Engineering and Public Works Department at (651) 714-3593 if you have questions regarding the proposed project.

New Year's resolution: Use less water

Looking for a New Year's resolution? Try using less water this year.

Start by "stepping on the scale;" take a closer look at your quarterly water bill and discover how much water you are using.

Near the top of your bill, find where it says "Current Water Use (Thousands of Gallons)." Take the value farthest to the right, under "usage," and add three zeros: 43 becomes 43,000. This is how many gallons of water your household used during that three-month billing cycle (or 91 days).

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has set the goal that

average was 187.2 gallons of water per person per day. That is more than twice as much water as the DNR goal of 75 gallons.

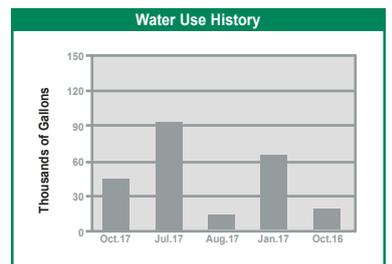
This chart also illustrates how the bill you receive in April (water used January through March) consumed the least amount of water, compared to the later water bills (water used April through September), when the home irrigation system may have been running more than necessary.

Do the math on your next bill to see how much water per person was consumed in your household in 2017.

Current Water Use (Thousands of Gallons)			
Meter	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Usage
Water	797	840	43

every Minnesotan should be using less than 75 gallons per day. So let's calculate how much each person in the example above used each day. Take the total amount of usage times 1,000 and divide it by the number of days in the billing cycle. Then, divide the result by the number of people in your home. A calculation for the example above would look like this: 43,000 gallons/91 days/3 people = 157.51 gallons of water per person per day. That means the example above is surpassing the DNR target, even though the household is paying a little more than \$70 for three months of water.

Now look at the table below labeled "Water Use History." Add the number of gallons from the first four bars from left to right (43+90+11+61=205). Again, add three zeros to the total. This home used 205,000 gallons of water in 2017. Over an entire year, the



Many ways to save

How can you improve water use efficiency? Install a smart controller on your irrigation system. For indoor use, look for leaky faucets and repair them or have toilets purchased prior to 1994 replaced with new models that use less water.

Visit smartwateruse.org for more information about how you can save water at home.

Council Perspective

By Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens

City watching PFCs in water closely

The State of Minnesota filed a lawsuit against 3M Company over perfluorochemicals (PFCs) found in the water system in some east metro communities, including Woodbury. We've been monitoring this issue closely and providing updates to the public since the early 2000s. However, with the recent news about the state's lawsuit, it seems appropriate to recap how this issue has evolved over the years and outline how it may impact our water source for years to come.

About PFCs

PFCs were made and used by several companies around the world in household and industrial products such as stain repellents, lubricants, fire retardant and suppressants, and more. The 3M Company made PFCs at its Cottage Grove facility from the late 1940s until 2002.

PFC wastes were disposed of in several landfills in Washington County including Lake Elmo, Oakdale and in southern Woodbury near Woodbury Drive (3M Woodbury site). The source of the PFCs in our groundwater has been identified as these landfills.

In 2011, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and 3M completed remediation activities at these sites to reduce the amount of pollutants released from these sites in the future. 3M, under direction from the MPCA, continues active site remediation. For the Woodbury site, remaining contamination is captured by pumping approximately 1.25 billion gallons of water annually to a treatment plant and discharging it to the Mississippi River.

Woodbury's wells have been tested for PFCs since 2004, when low levels of two different PFCs were detected in private wells in western Lake Elmo.

Here's a timeline of events related to PFCs in Woodbury that occurred since testing began in 2004:

2007 – PFCs detected at low levels in Woodbury wells. MDH establishes

a health risk level for some specific PFCs. Woodbury's wells test well below the health risk levels.

2011 – The MPCA and 3M complete remediation activities at the disposal sites.

2012 – Due to advancements in detection technology, trace levels of other PFCs were found in Woodbury wells. However, the concentrations detected were below the health risk limits established by MDH.

2016 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced its drinking water protective guidance level for some PFCs. EPA studies indicate exposure to certain PFCs at high levels may result in an increased risk of adverse health effects.

Late 2016 – MDH announced it was reviewing studies and methods used by the EPA to determine whether its own health risk levels need to be lowered and, if so, what the values should be.

May 2017 – The MDH completed its review and updated its protective guidance level for some PFCs. The new risk levels, based on daily consumption over a lifetime, were reduced even further. MDH scientists updated the values to better reflect new state-level analysis of the potential for mothers to pass along the chemicals to fetuses and nursing infants.

What does this mean?

Based on the most current data, five of Woodbury's 19 municipal wells have levels of PFCs in the water that exceed the newest MDH risk value. Several of these exceedances are only slightly above the health parameters and have been below those values on previous sampling events. The MDH recommendations are based on daily consumption over a lifetime.

Operational changes to our water system were implemented immediately upon the issuance of the new MDH guidance values earlier this year. We operate a single water

system, meaning water from all 19 wells in the system can and does mix, resulting in a decrease in concentrations of detected parameters in the water system. **The MDH indicates that by the time Woodbury water is reaching faucets, the amount of PFCs is under the new guidance values.**

Because water demand drops significantly outside of the summer months, we are able to remove these five wells from use for most of the year. However, these wells are used sparingly in a rotation during the summer months to help the city meet the higher demand of water use, primarily due to lawn watering. If and when we have long dry and hot conditions in the summer, we will have to use these wells more to meet demand. This is another reason why water use efficiency is so important. Remember, 1 inch of water per week is all you need to maintain a healthy lawn.

Our highest priority is the health and safety of our residents. Again, based on everything we know today, water delivered to your home from the city's water system is safe to drink. We will continue to work with the MDH to monitor the water while exploring solutions to restoring our wells to their full potential through additional treatment at these wells or another strategy. We will proceed cautiously and work closely with public health officials in protecting and informing residents. For additional information about PFCs, including current treatment options available, visit the MDH website.

Residents with private wells who have questions about their private water supply well and whether it is impacted by PFCs and the recent guidance value changes should contact the MDH.

Details and updates about PFCs in Woodbury, along with links to the MDH and MPCA websites, are available on the city's website at woodburymn.gov/PFCs.

Apply now for 2018 Citizens' Academy

The Woodbury Citizens' Academy is returning for the ninth consecutive year in 2018. Applications are being accepted via email through Friday, Jan. 26, by the Woodbury Community Foundation, sponsor of the program.

The Citizens' Academy consists of eight sessions designed to educate participants about the city and to encourage volunteer participation in the community. The weekly sessions begin Thursday, Feb. 1, and will end on March 22. The academy is open to the public, free of charge and limited to 30 persons. However, participants are encouraged to make a volunteer gift of \$50 to help offset the Woodbury Community Foundation's cost of the program. Enrollment is offered on a first come, first served basis.

The sessions cover a variety of topics including government, economic development, history, culture and diversity, public safety, local media, city works (public works, community development and advisory commissions), education and volunteerism.

"To date, more than 180 people have graduated from the Citizens' Academy," said Claudia Millington, the program's volunteer director. "They are our future leaders who will help ensure Woodbury remains a strong, robust community for years to come."

If you are interested in applying for the 2018 Citizens' Academy or would like more information, visit the Woodbury Community Foundation website at woodburyfoundation.org or send an email to Millington at cmillington@cortrustbank.com.

The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: (651) 714-3500. Email: jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov.

Mayor: Mary Giuliani Stephens.
Council Members: Christopher Burns, Andrea Date, Julie Ohs, Amy Scoggins.
City Administrator: Clinton Gridley.
Communications Supervisor: Jason Egerstrom.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with the act, the Woodbury newsletter is available in other formats. Call Jason Egerstrom, (651) 714-3500; TDD: (651) 714-3568.

Dog license time

Bella, Max and Bailey need their tags!

When it comes to licensed dogs living in Woodbury, Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are the most common breeds. Other popular breeds include: Shih Tzus, Boxers and German Shepherds.

The most popular names among dogs currently licensed in Woodbury are: Bella, Max, Lilly, Lucy and Bailey.

Among the unique names given Woodbury dogs are: Bojangles, Bibbidi Boo, Master Yoda and Sir Winston.

Licenses required

No matter what you call your four-legged friend, now is the time to purchase your dog's license for 2018-19. Identification through licensing your dog is important. Sometimes dogs wander or become lost. The license tag helps animal control officers locate the owner of any pooch they may pick up. Licenses also are required to use the dog park.

Licenses are required for all dogs six months and older, and should be purchased prior to March 31, 2018. After March 31, the license fee doubles. New residents of Woodbury must license their dog(s) within 60 days.

The license period will start Jan. 1, 2018, and end Dec. 31, 2019. The fee is \$10 for each spayed or neutered dog, \$18 for each male or female dog not neutered or spayed. **In order to be processed, documentation from a veterinarian must be provided to verify rabies vaccination expiration date.**

As in previous years, you can use the attached application to purchase your license by mail or you may come in person. Licenses can be obtained at Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road. Credit cards (MasterCard, Visa and Discover) are accepted in person only; however, payment of cash or check will expedite service.

License applications also are available on the Woodbury website at woodburymn.gov/doglicense. If you mail in the application, you must include a copy of the rabies certificate and a check payable to the City of Woodbury. Mail to: City of Woodbury, Dog License, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Questions can be directed to the Administration Department at (651) 714-3500. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

2018-19 Dog License Application

Complete and submit an application for each dog.

Check One:

- \$10 - spayed/neutered
- \$20 - after March 31
- \$18 - non-spayed/neutered
- \$36 - after March 31

Rabies Inoculation:

A copy of rabies certificate is required.

Exp. Date

Vet Name

Vet Phone

Owner's Name

Address

(zip code)

Phone (home)

(work)

Phone (cell)

Email Address

Dog's Name

Breed

Council appoints 16 to citizen advisory boards

Sixteen residents were appointed to Woodbury advisory commissions by the City Council in December. All serve on a volunteer basis and their terms are for three years, unless noted otherwise.

Those appointed were selected from a pool of 31 residents who applied for the advisory board vacancies in October. Council members interviewed candidates in November, and, according to Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens, the applicants once again impressed the Council with their qualifications.

"Woodbury has been very fortunate in attracting candidates who have professional or personal experience relevant to the various advisory boards," Stephens said. "In addition, our

residents are strongly motivated to serve their community."

Advisory groups and those appointed include:

Audit and Investment

Commission: Heidi Conrad (reappointed), Blake Darsow (two-year term), Ken Johnson (reappointed) and Aileen Lyle (reappointed).

Economic Development

Commission: Robert Bankers (reappointed), David Hoelzel, Pamela Morke, Gina Kazmerski (reappointed) and Radhika Upadrashta.

Parks and Natural Resources

Commission: Student representatives (one-year term): Nathaniel Alemu (Tartan High School) and Kaitlyn Radecki (East Ridge High School).

Planning Commission: Sonia Das, Jerad Ducklow (reappointed) and Richard Johnson. Student representatives (one-year term): Ian Lehn (St. Croix Preparatory Academy) and Jackson McGough (Woodbury High School).

The Council also selected chairpersons for the commissions. They are: Aileen Lyle, Audit and Investment Commission; Gina Kazmerski, Economic Development Commission; Timothy Sullivan, Parks and Natural Resources Commission; and David Filipiak, Planning Commission.

As new appointees are named, the City Council wishes to acknowledge those who have completed their service on city boards and commissions.

They include: Fred Dempsey-Hess, Julie Fett, Julia Miller and Nancy Wagner, Economic Development Commission; Emma Jones (student representative), Parks and Natural Resources Commission; Anne Burt, Emily Carlton (student representative), Al Rudnickas and Blake Wigen (student representative), Planning Commission.

Citizens interested in serving on any of the city's advisory boards may apply for openings annually. Applications generally are accepted in October, with interviews in November. Commissioners' terms begin in January.



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Reserve a park shelter or building beginning Jan. 17

Are you planning a birthday party or a family gathering in 2018? Woodbury's outdoor park shelters and buildings are available for rent beginning Jan. 17. The City of Woodbury offers many different locations and spaces suitable for groups of all sizes.

Call the Parks and Recreation Department at (651) 714-3583 or reserve online at woodburymn.gov/parkrentals.

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Plowing crew's goal is to clear city streets in 8 hours

When they hit the streets during winter storms, Woodbury's Public Works crews have a mission: To complete plowing and sanding of all city roads and cul-de-sacs at least once within eight hours.

Plowing activities begin in Woodbury whenever icy or slippery conditions make driving difficult. Roads adjacent to schools and primary streets, such as Tamarack Road, Woodlane Drive, Lake Road, Bielenberg Drive and Hudson Road, are given first priority for plowing. Residential streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared next.

"Our goal is to have the primary roads cleared before the morning and evening rush hour," Streets Supervisor Tim Thurmes said. "Heavy accumulations or high winds sometimes make that impossible, though."

How you can help

The city's policy is to plow from curb to curb, so objects such as mailboxes and trash cans sitting in the streets – as opposed to driveways – make plowing difficult for the operators. Parents also should not allow their kids to build snow forts on or near city streets or cul-de-sacs.

In an average winter, Public Works crews plow city streets about 25 times. Each time they are called out, plow operators clear the equivalent of 753 miles of one-lane roadway. That's about the same as driving from St. Paul to Cincinnati, Ohio! And it doesn't include the 558 cul-de-sacs that also must be cleared.

Questions about plowing procedures should be directed to the Public Works Department at (651) 714-3720.



Keep sidewalks clear of snow

With winter now upon us, it is important to know that city ordinance requires property owners with property adjacent to a public sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk by clearing snow and ice within 12 hours after it stops falling.

If you own property adjacent to a public sidewalk, be sure to keep it clear. If you have a contractor clearing the snow and ice from your sidewalks and driveway, remind them to also include the clearing of the public sidewalk(s) adjacent to your property.

Be aware that sidewalks not cleared within 12 hours may be abated, meaning the city may hire a private contractor to clear the sidewalk at the cost of the adjacent property owner. The cost of removal varies depending on the sidewalk as well as the amount and nature of the material to be cleared. Typically, the cost for abatement exceeds \$200 and may include administrative costs as well.

If you have questions, contact Matt Novak, building inspector/code enforcement officer, at (651) 714-3553 or matt.novak@woodburymn.gov.