

Woodbury City Update

February 2018 • Volume 19, No. 2



The City of Woodbury is now taking applications for summer seasonal positions, including puppet wagon puppeteer positions.

Summer jobs available with the city

Are you currently seeking summer employment opportunities lasting from three to six months?

The City of Woodbury is now taking applications for summer seasonal positions for our maintenance, golf course and recreation programs.

Positions available include:

- Pee wee sports coach
- Puppet wagon puppeteer
- Playground program leader
- Camp Carver leader
- Lifeguard
- HealthEast Sports Center summer outdoor fields attendant
- Tennis instructor
- Maintenance worker in the Parks Division, including horticulture, irrigation, trash/recycling duties and more (three-month and six-month positions available)
- Maintenance worker in the Utilities and Streets Divisions (three-month and six-month positions available)

There are also several positions available at Eagle Valley Golf Course, including:

- Golf course maintenance worker
- Food and beverage attendant (must be at least 18 years old)
- Starter/ranger
- Outside service attendant

The minimum age requirement is 16 for golf course and recreation positions. Applicants for the Utilities, Parks and Streets maintenance positions must be at least 18 years old.

Interested individuals should apply at woodburymn.gov/employment. Email hr@woodburymn.gov or call (651) 714-3500 or with any questions.



Community input needed on comprehensive plan update

Members of the public are invited to attend one of three community meetings scheduled for the purpose of obtaining input regarding the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a city's chief land use and infrastructure planning document. Woodbury's 2040 Comprehensive Plan will serve as a blueprint to guide development through the year 2040. Some of the areas for comment might include future land uses, parks and open spaces, future housing options or transportation and transit issues.

The community meetings will be held Monday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, March 13, at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. All three meetings will take place in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road.

Woodbury has been working on the creation of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan since November 2015. In 2016, the City Council appointed a group of residents to serve on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Task Force. The task force's recommendations will eventually be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Affected property owners, community stakeholders, neighboring communities and the

Metropolitan Council also will review the recommendations prior to final adoption by the City Council. The city's goal is to submit the proposed changes to the Metropolitan Council by the end of this year.

The City Council provided direction that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan be an update to the existing 2030 Comprehensive Plan, which the city adopted in 2010. Therefore, significant changes to the vision or guiding principles of the document are not expected with this update.

At the 2017 Woodbury Community Expo, staff presented to the public a draft 2040 land use map that identifies which parcels in the community are guided for certain future uses. This map can be viewed on the city's website (woodburymn.gov) along with the draft Vision and Guiding Principles chapter.

Questions about the upcoming meetings or the comprehensive plan update process should be directed to the Karl Batalden, the city's housing and economic development coordinator, at karl.batalden@woodburymn.gov or (651) 414-3438.

Comprehensive plan community input meetings

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Council Perspective

By Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens

Growth is good for business

In late January, *Money* magazine named Woodbury the best place to live in Minnesota, touting our high-performing schools and extensive parks and trails system.

Homebuyers must agree. Woodbury was among the five fastest-growing suburbs in 2017, with 646 new housing units constructed. This is the most new housing units added in one year in Woodbury since 2006. There were also several new residential developments approved in 2017, providing additional housing choices for current and future residents.

The city has long supported a variety of housing types to accommodate people of all ages, income levels and family status. The new developments approved in 2017 will include a combination of single family homes and townhomes. In addition, a 305-unit apartment complex, Woodbury Flats, commenced construction in 2017. Two new affordable senior housing projects also were approved in 2017, with construction beginning in 2018.

Most of the new residential construction will be occurring in four large developments in southern Woodbury. These areas will be developed over the course of several years, consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan:

- **Bridlewood Farms** – Located east of Radio Drive and south of Hargis Parkway.
- **Copper Ridge** – Located east of Radio Drive and south of East Ridge High School, adjacent to the Bridlewood Farms development.
- **Glen View Farms** – Located west of Woodbury Drive and south of Bailey Road.
- **Highcroft** – Located west of Woodbury Drive and south of Bailey Road, adjacent to the Glen View Farms development.

As you see new rooftops appearing across the city's landscape this year, remember that we enjoy a high quality of life in Woodbury today thanks to the growth we have experienced over the past 25-plus years.



Woodbury's continued, planned residential growth also makes us an exciting, dynamic place to do business. It helps attract a wide array of new shopping and dining businesses such as the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema (opening in Woodbury Lakes in June), Costco and Portillo's.

It has also helped make Woodbury the medical destination of the east metro, adding to our quality of life. In the past five years, more than 300,000 square feet of new healthcare development has occurred, including new businesses such as TRIA Orthopaedics, Twin Cities Orthopedics and Minnesota Eye Consultants, and expansions for HealthEast Clinics, Central Pediatrics Clinics, Children's Hospitals and Clinics and Summit Orthopedics. These new businesses bring jobs to the community and also help to diversify and strengthen the city's tax base, making us less dependent on residential property taxes.

This growth also has allowed us to improve city services and recreational facilities. Expanding the HealthEast Sports Center and developing a park and trail system that is the envy of many communities – all have been possible because of the city's growth.

Managing growth

Growth is a fundamental part of the history and future of Woodbury. From our early days as a city, local officials anticipated growth and implemented long-term planning strategies that have allowed us to carefully manage growth. The recent resurgence in residential growth is consistent with our long-term planning goals and strategies. When fully developed, we expect Woodbury's population to be close to 90,000.

Since the early 1980s, the city has had a comprehensive plan – our “blueprint” for future development. The plan, updated on a regular basis, provides the basic framework for development, including policies related to the extension of utilities, roads and other city infrastructure, and the facilities and services needed to accommodate development. We are now updating this plan to prepare for future development through 2040 (see article, page 1).

Our long-standing strategic philosophy of welcoming and planning for growth has helped create our reputation as a great place to live, work and thrive! We are excited to welcome the next phase of residential growth, which will contribute to the overall vibrancy and health of our community for years to come.

If you would like to learn more about residential and commercial development in Woodbury, check out our interactive development map at woodburymn.gov/developmentmap.

Please clean up after your pet!

Woodbury's parks and trails are used year-round. Even during frigid weather, folks come out for a brisk jog or a hike through the snowy landscape. But tranquil trail walks can be marred by the unsightly mess left behind by people who don't pick up after their pets.

City ordinances require pet owners to carry supplies for excrement removal when walking a pet off their property; pets also must be leashed anytime they are off their owner's property. All messes on public property – including the off-leash dog park – or on the private property of others must be cleaned up. The city has received several complaints about pet feces left on public trails this winter.



“We need the help and cooperation of pet owners to keep our parks and trails clean and enjoyable for everyone to use,” said Parks and Recreation Director Bob Klatt. “The requirement to pick up after your pet is in effect year-round, not just during summertime. We hope people will be courteous and comply with the ordinance.”

Persons who do not comply may be cited for violating city code and fined. Summaries of the animal control ordinances pertaining to pets are available at City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road. Information also is available via the city's website at woodburymn.gov. Select “City Code” under “Your Government” and refer to chapter five.

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.

Homeowners: Apply now for a discounted smart irrigation controller

Woodbury homeowners can sign up now to purchase a WaterSense-certified smart irrigation controller through the city at a discounted rate of \$20 (retail value is \$200).

Smart irrigation controllers can reduce water use by at least 20 percent without changing a lawn's appearance by watering only when it has not rained enough. The controllers connect through WiFi to access recent rainfall information and forecasts before turning on the irrigation system, provided the home's WiFi signal reaches the controller (often located in the garage).

Last year, one program participant reported that their new controller skipped watering for three weeks straight due to rainfall. The impact on their lawn's appearance: none!

Research done by the University of Minnesota has concluded that a smart controller can reduce a home's water

use by 30 to 50 thousand gallons of water each year. These controllers can be operated through a smartphone or computer, and can be programmed with smart-home technology like Amazon Alexa or Google Home.

In 2016-17, more than 450 Woodbury residents purchased smart controllers through this program. Join your neighbors by visiting woodburymn.gov/smartirrigation and purchase a smart controller at this reduced rate before they are gone.

Association-managed and commercial systems

Commercial and homeowners association properties with irrigation meters (using city water) also can receive funding assistance for improvements that reduce water use.

Approved projects will receive 50 percent funding assistance up to \$8,000 for one or more projects such as:

- Upgrading your controller
- Adding weather-sensing technology
- Replacing sprinkler heads with high efficiency models
- Completing an audit

Property managers and board members should work with their irrigation contractor to decide what is right for their system.

Last year, 22 properties participated in this program. Those interested in participating in the 2018 program must apply by Friday, April 13, at woodburymn.gov/commercialirrigation. Cost sharing funding is not guaranteed. Only projects accepted into the program will be eligible for funding. Improvements made in previous years are not eligible. Projects will be approved and applicants will be notified by April 24.



Want to learn more?

The city is hosting an irrigation information session on Wednesday, March 14, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the amphitheater at Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place. Come learn about how to program a smart controller, ask questions, and apply for a discounted controller in person.

Water-saving devices now required on all irrigation systems

State law and city ordinance require all automatic irrigation systems be equipped with technology that automatically shuts off the system when sufficient moisture is present.

Under the city's recently updated ordinance, property owners/managers now may choose which type of technology to use: a rain sensor, soil moisture sensor or weather-monitoring "smart" controller. The ordinance amendment also requires that new controllers be WaterSense certified at the time of installation. This certification assures the customer that the controller will cut waste by at least 20 percent. However, it is common to see reductions up to 50 percent, especially for residential systems.

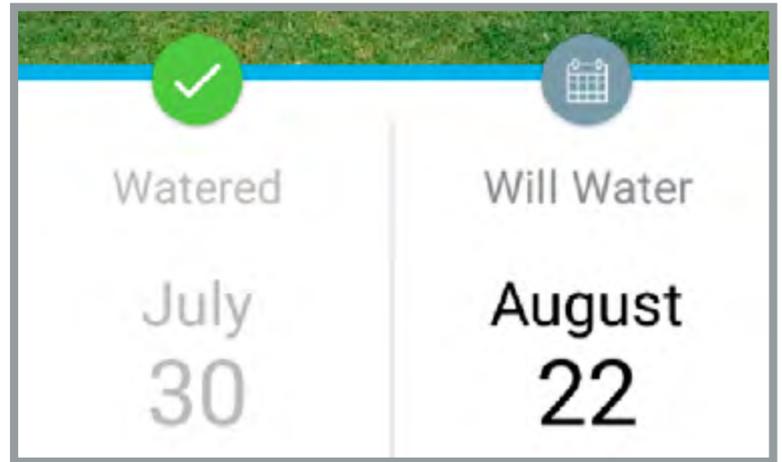
Those who are buying a new home, or are in the market for an irrigation system or controller, can visit epa.gov/WaterSense to learn more about different options.

Homes with irrigation systems

If your home has an irrigation system, be sure to check whether it has a working sensor in place. If it does, check and change the batteries regularly.

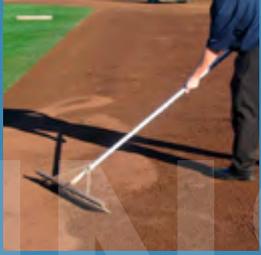
If your system does not have a sensor installed, you may be eligible to purchase a smart controller for a discounted price from the City of Woodbury.

Homeowners can now sign up to purchase a WaterSense-certified smart controller for their irrigation system for only \$20 (retail price is \$200). A smart controller will replace your existing clock-based controller that runs on odd or even days regardless of the weather. Homes with smart controllers must still follow the city's lawn watering policy, but smart controllers make it easy for anyone to save water without falling out of compliance with policy.



If you don't have a working rain sensor or soil moisture sensor, participating in this program will update your system to meet state and city requirements. If you do have a working sensor but are interested in a water-efficient controller, many sensors are

compatible with the smart controllers used in this program. For more information, visit woodburymn.gov/smartirrigation or see the article at the top of this page.



Summer jobs now available

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Ordinance requires clean up after pets

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Save on a smart irrigation device

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Mayor Stephens will deliver State of the City presentation Feb. 24 at Central Park

Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens will deliver her State of the City presentation Saturday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. in the amphitheater at Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

The presentation will feature updates about development, parks and recreation, city projects and much more. Mayor Stephens also will take questions from the audience at the end of her presentation

Following the mayor's speech, catch a special performance from the Woodbury High School choir.

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Woodbury, MN

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Sign up to receive emergency calls from the city



Does your family rely exclusively on mobile phone service instead of a landline telephone? If so – and if you want to receive important emergency messages from the city – you should sign up to receive emergency calls on your mobile phone.

The City of Woodbury, in conjunction with Washington County, uses CodeRED, a high-speed telephone calling system, to notify local residents and businesses about emergency situations. The system allows the city to send critical communications to the entire city or to targeted areas within the city in a matter of minutes.

The system also can be used to send important “non-emergency” messages – like the reminder the city sent in August to residents living along the Woodbury Days parade route. The non-emergency messages are optional.

The system is not used for weather warnings, but may be used for follow-up information such as evacuations or shelter locations.

How to receive alerts

The CodeRED system uses the 911 database and published White Pages information for its notification lists, but no one should assume that his/her information is included. If you reside or own property, including a business, within Woodbury, you are urged to sign up for CodeRED messages and ensure that you receive any emergency notifications.

You also can opt in to receive calls directly to your mobile phone, text messages, and/or email alerts. You can register as many devices as you wish to up to two addresses.

The CodeRED system uses the most

recent information entered for an address and overwrites previous information. It automatically purges phone numbers that are no longer in use.

A free CodeRED app is available and can use it to view alerts issued in different CodeRED service areas.

How it works

City staff accesses CodeRED via a secure portal on the Internet. A “call area” is marked and telephone numbers are matched electronically to these addresses. A pre-recorded message is sent with information and instructions. The message is played when answered by a person or a machine; the system makes three attempts to connect to each number.

The calling number for CodeRED emergencies will display as 800-419-5000. If you would like to hear the

last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

How to register

Residents should self-register at woodburymn.gov/codered. You may register as many mobile phone numbers and email addresses as you desire; however, each form can accommodate just two numbers, so you will need to enter additional forms for more than two numbers.

Persons without internet service can call Woodbury Public Safety at (651) 714-3600 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for assistance with registration.

If you have any questions about the CodeRED system, contact Mike Richardson, emergency services commander, at mike.richardson@woodburymn.gov or Michelle Okada, public information officer, at michelle.okada@woodburymn.gov.