

# Woodbury City Update

March 2017 • Volume 18, No. 3



The Carver Lake Park building is a great place for hosting family celebrations and gatherings. You can reserve the facility – and other park buildings and shelters – on the city’s website at [woodburymn.gov](http://woodburymn.gov).

## Outdoor facility rentals now being accepted online for 2017

It’s time to start planning your events, gatherings, parties and celebrations for the year! Outdoor park shelters and building rentals for 2017 are now being accepted online. The City of Woodbury offers many different locations and spaces suitable for groups of all sizes.

Reserving a facility online is fast and easy. Simply visit [woodburymn.gov/parks/rental-opportunities](http://woodburymn.gov/parks/rental-opportunities). Short descriptions with photos of each facility are listed in the reservation system. Amenities differ based on the facility, but popular features include grills, picnic tables, a fishing pier, canoe launch, restrooms and access to play structures.

### Year-round park buildings

- Colby Lake Park, 9715 Valley Creek Road
- Evergreen West Park, 1033 Tamberwood Trail
- Kargel Park, 9301 Tamarack Road
- Shawnee Park, 6515 Scheel Drive
- La Lake Retreat Center, 6748 Military Road. The retreat center is not available to reserve online. Interested parties may call (651) 714-3583 to reserve this facility.

### Park open-air shelters

Register now for availability between April 15 and Oct. 15

- Carver Lake Park, 3175 Century Avenue South
- Edgewater Park, 3100 Edgewater Drive \*
- Ojibway Park, 2695 Ojibway Drive
- Powers Lake, 10000 Brookview Road \*
- Stonemill Farms Park, 11500 Sawmill Curve
- Liberty Park, 11375 Eagle View Boulevard

\* indicates facility is available for half-day or full-day rental from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To reserve an outdoor athletic field or court, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (651) 714-3583 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Special events

Special events such as sports competitions, festivals, races or fundraisers require an application. The application can be found on the “Rental Opportunities” web page.

Don’t wait, reserve your space today!

## Market value notices set to hit mailboxes in March

Property value notices are expected to be mailed to property owners during the last week of March by Washington County. Like in previous years, the valuation notices will be mailed with property tax statements for taxes payable in 2017.

The “2017 Notice of Valuation and Classification for Taxes Payable in 2018” will indicate the market value established this year on Jan. 2. This market value is the approximate amount for which a property could sell and is the basis for your 2018 taxes.

### Determining market value

Each year, the county assessor’s office reviews the assessed market value of all property to determine whether changes in the local real estate market require a change in assessed values. Real estate sales are verified and studied based on the location, age, and style of home and quality of construction to determine these market adjustments.

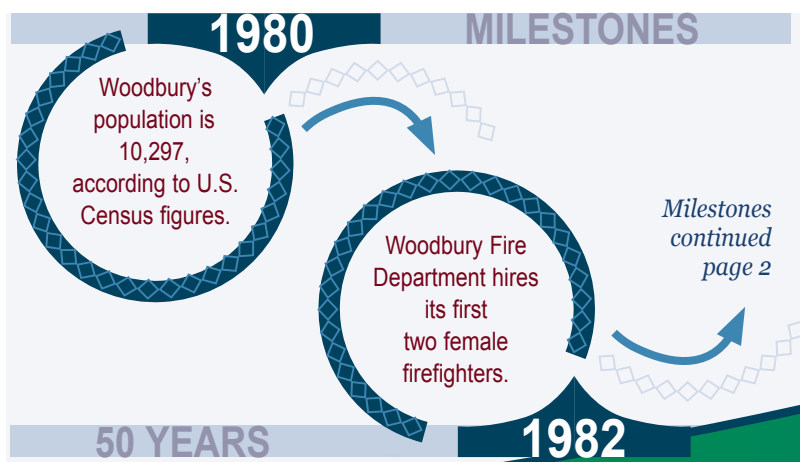
If property owners question their 2017 estimated market value or classification listed on their “Notice of Valuation” form, they should:

**1** Contact the assessor’s office. Property owners who have questions or concerns regarding the market value set for their property are encouraged to contact the property appraiser assigned to their area by calling (651) 430-6175. The appraiser will review the property data and sales information with you and, if necessary, schedule an interior review of the property. A large majority of concerns can be resolved through this administrative review without the need for a formal appeal.

OR you may attend any of the four regional Open Book meetings scheduled by the county (see 2017 schedule on page 2). Your appeal can be made in person, through a letter, or through a representative authorized by you. The Open Book process offers an informal setting for property owners as well as several scheduling options.

**2** Appear before the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Property owners who are not satisfied by speaking with the assessor’s office or with the action taken at the Open Book meeting may appear before the

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# Council Perspective

By Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens

## Happy 50th birthday, Woodbury!

Thirty-three years ago, I was newly married and my husband Greg and I were on our way to play tennis. We stopped at a convenience store and saw a magazine cover showcasing the top 10 neighborhoods to live in the Twin Cities. Evergreen, in Woodbury, was one of the neighborhoods highlighted and we were curious. So, instead of playing tennis, we drove to check it out. We fell in love, bought a lot, and built a home. We still live in that same house today.

This happy memory came to mind as we prepare to celebrate the city's 50th anniversary. The Woodbury Community Foundation is planning a birthday party open house for the community on Saturday, March 25, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Central Park. The community is encouraged to attend this free event, which will be a great opportunity for reflection, engagement and visioning (see schedule of events on page 3).

Residents and businesses also are encouraged to celebrate by displaying a "50 Years" window decal in their windows to demonstrate their sense of pride, ownership, inclusion and belonging in the community. They are available free of charge at Woodbury City Hall and Central Park.

Our community has accomplished amazing things in the last 50 years largely because our residents love where they live. Something really special happens in that relationship between individual and place – we want to give back, engage and connect with others.

What I enjoy most about serving as mayor are the wonderful people I

meet and work with who share the same vision. People work together here to make sure Woodbury is a safe community; maintains a high quality living environment; promotes business investment and job growth; and offers quality education. We value civic engagement and giving back to a community we love. This idea is stated on a wall inside City Hall: "Woodbury is what it is because our citizens are who they are."

In my three decades here, I have been fortunate to meet so many dedicated, passionate, generous, and hard-working members of this community. While many have been here since the beginning, others have moved to Woodbury more recently and have helped build and grow our community into what it is today. We are so blessed to live in a place that so many people love. We are truly better for it.

While I don't have enough space in this column to detail everything I've enjoyed about living in Woodbury, I want to share a few of my favorite things:

**1) The people.** We have developed many friendships over the years through our engagement in the community. We have always felt connected, whether it was through our place of worship, civic groups, or our children's schools and activities. My parents, one of my sisters, my daughter and her family all now live in Woodbury.

**2) The parks and trail system.** We spent many hours with our children on bike rides, nature walks, or visiting the variety of parks throughout the community. As the

children grew and became involved in sports we spent many hours on soccer, baseball and softball fields and in the old field house "bubble" at Bielenberg Sports Center (BSC). Our grandchildren live in Woodbury and have enjoyed the expanded park and trail system and the recent upgrades at BSC.

**3) Convenient access** to Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 1985, Woodbury did not have the jobs it has today, so we felt fortunate to live here, yet be so close to our jobs in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

**4) Woodbury is a safe and clean community,** and these attributes remain a priority.

**5) Increasing grocery, retail, restaurant and private sector opportunities.** I enjoy that I don't have to leave our community to obtain many of the goods and services I want and need.

As Woodbury continues to grow, it is important to retain and enhance these great qualities and characteristics that have attracted so many people here in the first place, while also realizing that "community" is different to all of us. We are getting older, bigger, and more diverse!

Our 50th anniversary provides an opportunity to adapt and expand our civic pride and identity; think creatively about the needs of the community; and come together in celebration and thanksgiving for those who have come before us to lay the foundation of where we live, work, and play today.

We'll see you at Central Park on March 25!

## Market value... from page 1

County Board of Appeal, consisting of elected county commissioners, the county auditor, and/or appointed officials. You must contact the assessor's office at (651) 430-6175 by Wednesday, May 10, to be placed on the agenda.

**3** Appeal to Minnesota State Tax Court. The alternative method of appeal is bypassing the first two steps listed above. It involves making an appeal directly to the Minnesota Tax Court. The deadline to appeal to the Minnesota State Tax Court is April 30 of the year that the taxes are due. That means if a property owner wishes to appeal taxes due in 2017, they must file an appeal with the court by April 30, 2017. For more information, visit the tax court website at [www.taxcourt.state.mn.us](http://www.taxcourt.state.mn.us), or call (651) 539-3260.

If you have any questions regarding the appraisal process or the 2017 market value, contact the Washington County Assessor's Office at (651) 430-6175 or visit the Washington County Assessor's Office website at [washing-ton.minnesotaassessors.com](http://washing-ton.minnesotaassessors.com).

## Open Book meetings set for market value appeals

Woodbury property owners can attend any of the following Open Book meetings to appeal their market value or property classification.

- Thursday, April 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway South
- Wednesday, April 12, from 5 to 7 p.m., Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North
- Thursday, April 20, from 5 to 7 p.m., Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road
- Wednesday, April 26, from 2 to 7 p.m., Washington County Government Center in Stillwater, 14949 62nd Street North

Property owners who have questions or concerns are strongly encouraged to contact the property appraiser responsible for their area as a first step. The number to call is (651) 430-6175.

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](mailto:jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov).

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



### Woodbury's Golden Birthday Party Schedule

Saturday, March 25, from 5 to 9 p.m.



### Central Park Garden and upper level

- Stroll through the garden to view the Heritage Walk and learn more about Woodbury's history.
- Meet a Police K9 Unit and check out our Public Safety fleet display outside!
- Commemorate the occasion with a selfie at the red carpet photo booth.
- Get your face painted in the café nook by the front entrance.
- Keep your eyes open for a balloon maker! They will be wandering throughout the park.

### Thanks to our event sponsors

- Artists of Woodbury
- Big Frog
- Centerpoint
- City of Woodbury
- Image 360
- League of Women Voters of Woodbury - Cottage Grove
- Merrill Community Arts Center, home of Woodbury Community Theatre
- Washington County Library
- Woodbury Community Foundation
- Woodbury Senior Living
- Woodbury YMCA

### In the Central Park Amphitheater

Time	Event/Activity
5-5:45 p.m.	Aspire Music Academy performance
5:45-6:15 p.m.	Robotics teams demonstrations <i>Math and Science Academy's Fighting Calculators Robotics</i> <i>Woodbury High School's Royal T-Wrecks Robotics</i> <i>East Ridge High School's ERRORS Robotics</i>
6:15-6:30 p.m.	"Happy Birthday" cake and song with Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens <i>Introduction of anniversary baby (born March 7)</i> <i>Special thanks to Cub Foods, Jerry's, and Lunds &amp; Byerlys for cake donation</i>
6:30-7 p.m.	The Villa Vixens' Senior Choir
7-9 p.m.	KDWB radio personalities <i>Stay tuned for trivia and prizes throughout the evening!</i>

### At the YMCA

Time	Activity	Location
5-9 p.m.	Relaxation and inspiration station <i>Treat yourself to some pampering and walk the labyrinth</i>	Community Room
5-9 p.m.	Bounce house	Gymnasium
7-8 p.m.	Interactive robotics demonstrations	Teen Center
8-9 p.m.	Artists of Woodbury craft activity	Teen Center

### At the library

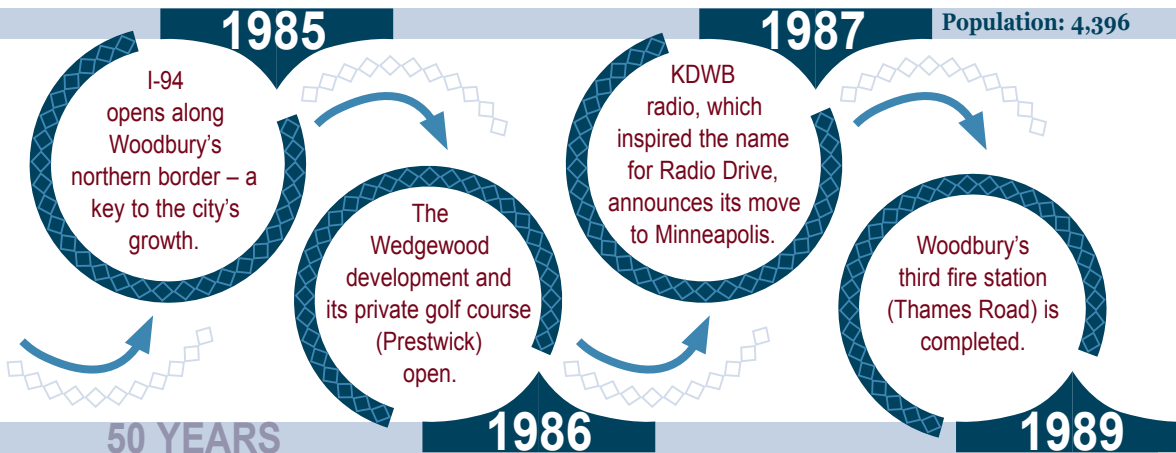
Time	Activity
5-9 p.m.	Open for regular use
5:30 -7:30 p.m.	Button-making and coloring activities
7-8 p.m.	Meet the Artists of Woodbury
7:30-8 p.m.	Bedtime Story Time I
8-8:30 p.m.	Bedtime Story Time II

### Central Park lower level

Food will be available for purchase from vendors, including Piada and Kowalski's.

Lookout Ridge indoor playground will be open at no cost from 5 to 7 p.m.

### Milestones...from page 1





**2017 outdoor rentals now open**

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**Market value notices**

Page 1



**Woodbury birthday party schedule**

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## Registration for summer recreation programs begins March 22

Looking for fun summer adventures? Once again, Woodbury Parks and Recreation is offering a number of cool summer recreation programs and special events for all ages.

Details will be available in city's summer recreation programs brochure to be mailed the week of March 13.

Online registration for summer recreation programs begins March 22.

Postal Patron  
Woodbury, MN

# Woodbury City Update

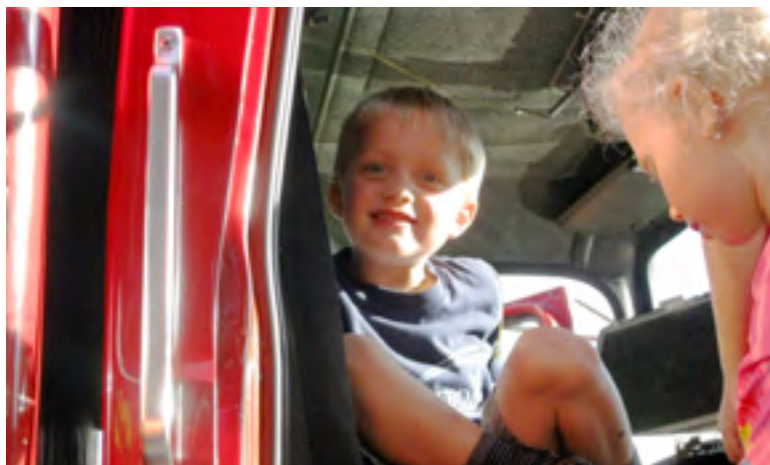
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## Climb on city trucks at Community Expo April 1

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 1, and plan to attend the eighth annual Woodbury Community Expo. The event, sponsored by the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held at East Ridge High School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The expo is free and family-friendly.

More than 186 local businesses and non-profit groups will participate, promoting their companies and organizations. There also will be entertainment and demonstrations throughout the day.

Be sure to stop by the city's booth and pick up a free parks and trails map. In addition, information about city facilities, services, seasonal employment, recreation programs, development projects and the city's comprehensive plan update will be available. The concept plan for potential improve-



ments to Ojibway Park also will be on display. Representatives from various city departments will be on hand to answer questions.

The kids will enjoy interactive water conservation activities and a police K9 demonstration. The whole family

can check out some of the city's big trucks (weather permitting).

For more information about the expo, call the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce at (651) 578-0722 or visit [woodburychamber.org](http://woodburychamber.org).

## Milestones... from page 3

