

Woodbury City Update

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Illustration of non-compliance.

Help keep our community strong and healthy

The month of October is Code Compliance Month in Woodbury and the public is asked to help celebrate by recognizing the city's building, zoning, housing and other codes and ordinances that protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Code enforcement plays an important role in maintaining the community's well-planned neighborhoods and high quality of life. As neighborhoods mature and new residents move into the city, it is increasingly important for residents to be aware of the quality community standards that help make Woodbury such a great place to live and raise a family.

These standards are supported by the city's code of ordinances which include, but are not limited to, property maintenance, nuisance and zoning standards. Some of the more common infractions include:

- **Waste/recycling container storage** - Containers must be located indoors or be fully hidden from view. Locating containers behind a solid fence or wall no less than 5 feet in height so as not to be visible from adjoining properties would be an acceptable alternative to storing containers indoors.
- **Weeds and tall grass** - Most lawns must be maintained so as not to exceed 8 inches in height. Landscaped areas must also be maintained. Noxious weeds, as defined by state statute, must be controlled or eradicated. An example of a common noxious weed is Canada thistle.
- **Exterior storage** - Materials

and equipment must be located indoors or be fully hidden behind a solid fence or wall no less than 5 feet in height so as not to be visible from adjoining properties. There are some items that are exempt from this provision such as outdoor furniture, grills, clothes lines, etc.

- **Recreational equipment** - One piece of recreational equipment not exceeding 24 feet in length may be located outdoors as follows: at least 15 feet from the curb, at least 5 feet from side and rear property lines, and on concrete or blacktop. Recreational equipment includes items such as trailers, boats, recreational vehicles, campers, snowmobiles, etc.
- **Property maintenance** - The adopted property maintenance code requires the maintenance of structures and grounds. Common violations found include damaged siding, windows, doors, roofing and peeling paint.

If compliance cannot be achieved through correspondence, citations may be issued. Some violations may also be corrected through abatement measures. The cost of abatement may be assessed to a property.

In addition, many developments have private covenants that are often more restrictive than city ordinances. Please be aware that the city does not enforce private covenants.

If you have questions or concerns, contact code enforcement officer Matt Novak at matt.novak@woodburymn.gov or (651) 714-3543.

New and improved online utility bill pay service now available

The city recently launched its new and improved online utility bill pay system.

The new system, Invoice Cloud, offers expanded payment options with the ability to make a one-time payment not only with a credit card but via an e-check (from a checking or savings account). Customers are also able to schedule a payment for a future date.

The system offers an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system which allows users to make payments or check balances by interacting with an automated computer system. Customers can access this payment option by calling (844) 476-2914.

In addition, the city now has the ability to offer pay-by-text functionality, allowing customers to make payments anytime, anywhere, on any cell phone. They may also receive text alerts when their bill is ready or a reminder that their balance is due.



Pay Online



Pay by Text



Pay by Phone



Auto Pay

Invoice Cloud also provides the ability for customers to set-up their own Auto Pay if they are a registered user. Customers who have several properties or accounts in Woodbury will be happy with the "Shopping Cart" feature, giving them the ability to make payments on multiple accounts at once.

Utility customers also have the ability to sign up to "go paperless" and receive e-bills via email.

Set up a new account

With the transition to the new Invoice Cloud system, all customers that were previously enrolled in the city's eUtilitybilling online site will have to re-register their account. This includes those users that elected to receive ebills in the legacy system. You must re-register and choose the paperless billing option to continue to receive your bill electronically.

In addition, any customers currently using Auto Pay with a credit/debit card will have to re-register if they wish to still have their credit/debit card charged through Auto Pay. Due to credit card security standards, the city does not hold any credit card data, and therefore, is unable to set up your Auto Pay payment option. The city apologizes for this inconvenience. However, customers currently using Auto Pay with a checking or savings account will be automatically enrolled; no further action is needed.

To register your account, visit woodburymn-utilities.com.

All customers will receive a reminder about the new service in their next bill. All you need to register is your account number, which is located on the front of the billing statement.

Contact the Utility Billing Division at (651) 714-3508 or send an email to utilitybilling@woodburymn.gov with questions.

Council Perspective

By Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens

Housing choices are critical for Woodbury's vitality

Housing plays a significant role in the high quality of life we enjoy in Woodbury. It's important that the city's policies and plans allow for a supply of housing styles, sizes and prices that encourage people of all ages and lifestyles to live in Woodbury today and in the future. As Woodbury continues to add both office and retail spaces, it is critical that workers in the community have access to a wide variety of housing types.

We establish our long-term vision and guiding principles for housing in our comprehensive plan, the community's blueprint for future growth. A key element of this document, which we are updating looking ahead to the year 2040, is to identify housing needs and provide a foundation for local decision-making to guide residential development and redevelopment efforts in Woodbury.

Some of Woodbury's housing goals are to:

- Encourage the development of a diversity of housing to accommodate people of all ages, income levels and family status.
- Identify areas for residential growth in a range of types, styles and affordability while maintaining high quality building standards and amenities.
- Continue to encourage a high standard of property maintenance.
- Provide a fair share of the region's need for affordable housing.
- Expand housing opportunities for our children as they graduate and enter the workforce.
- Support and create housing opportunities for those who are retired and on fixed incomes.

Dating back to Woodbury's first comprehensive planning efforts in the late 1970s, city leaders have

understood that there is a critical connection between housing, local economic development and the economy as a whole. As the city works through the update to our current comprehensive plan over the coming months, we recognize that as Woodbury's population grows, companies will recognize us as a great place to do business. The variety of new jobs that Woodbury is seeing will require a variety of housing options.

New housing projects

We recently approved a number of residential projects that will help achieve our housing goals. Along with several developments which offer a mixture of single-family and townhome options, here are a few unique projects under way in Woodbury:

- **The Glen at Valley Creek** - The Washington County Community Development Agency purchased an existing dilapidated single-family property west of Tower Drive and south of Afton Road and will construct a 42-unit apartment building affordable to low-income senior residents. Construction is expected to begin in 2018.
- **Legends of Woodbury** - A 216-unit apartment building affordable to low-income senior residents will be constructed on the former KOA Campground site south of Hudson Road and west of Settlers Ridge Parkway. The project is expected to be completed in early 2019.

■ **Artis Senior Living** - This redevelopment project involves combining three existing single-family lots south of Afton Road and east of Tower Drive into a memory care facility with a first phase of 64 units (up to 72 units possible). Construction is expected to begin in 2018.

■ **Saint Therese of Woodbury Phase II** - This will be a two-story, independent senior living building with 64 units, located south of the existing Saint Therese facility west of Radio Drive and south of Bailey Road. Construction is underway and is expected to be completed in early 2018.

■ **Woodbury Flats** - This will be a 305-unit general occupancy apartment community with four buildings and a clubhouse. The project is located south of Hargis Parkway and west of Radio Drive in southern Woodbury. Construction is under way and is expected to be completed in early 2019.

More development related information is available on the city's online development map at woodburymn.gov/developmentmap.

Additionally, you may opt to receive an InTouch email notification when new projects are added to the development map. To sign up, visit woodburymn.gov/InTouch and select the "New residential and commercial developments" list.

For more information about development in the city, contact the Planning Division at (651) 714-3533 or planning@woodburymn.gov.

Applications due Oct. 17 for advisory boards

Tuesday, Oct. 17, is the deadline for submitting an application for appointment to a Woodbury advisory commission. Citizens appointed to these groups serve on a volunteer basis. The term is for three years in most instances.

This year, there are some openings on the city's advisory boards. In addition, there are up to two openings on the Parks and Natural Resources Commission and Planning Commission for 11th- and 12th-grade high school students who are Woodbury residents. The term for students is for one year.

In some instances, incumbents are eligible for reappointment. The groups are:

- Audit and Investment Commission
- Economic Development Commission
- Parks and Natural Resources Commission
- Planning Commission

Two other groups – the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission and Watershed District Board – will not have vacancies in 2018.

Woodbury residents who are interested in serving with any of these advisory groups may call City Hall, (651) 714-3500, to request an application. Applications also are available on the city's website at woodburymn.gov/commissions. Descriptions of the various commissions also can be found there.

The City Council will interview applicants on Saturday, Nov. 4. New appointees begin their terms in January.

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 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.



First place (Events): "The Ride of Their Lives"
By Joe Briol



First place (Landmarks): "So Many Memories Inside"
By Karen Bradley



First place (Historic): "Scenes from the Stutzman Farm" (Now Marsh Creek)
By Patty (Stutzman) Paulus



First place (People): "I Haven't the Foggiest"
By Mackenzie Harding



First place (Nature): "Up Close and Beautiful"
By Thanna Goff



First place (Pets): "Daisy Mae Loves Water!"
By Renae Jensen



Readers' Choice "Move Over Rudolph, Herbie's in Town!"
By Rachel Scholz

Judges select winners of 19th photo contest

The judging is complete and 27 photos earned recognition in the 19th annual "Focus on Woodbury" photo contest.

First place winners are Mackenzie Harding in the people category; Thanna Goff, nature; Renae Jensen, pets; Joe Briol, events; Karen Bradley, landmarks; and Patty (Stutzman) Paulus, historic (this category was added this year in recognition of the city's 50th anniversary). *Woodbury Magazine* also invited its readers to cast votes online for their favorite images; Rachel Scholz's photo received the most votes and earned the "Readers' Choice" award.

Second place winners are Srilekha Senthil (people), Christina Zheng (nature), Lorrie Burdeski (pets), Mackenzie Harding (events), Karen Bradley (landmarks) and Patty Paulus (historic). Taking third place honors are David Butenhoff (people), Michaela Finley (nature), Jane Andersen (pets), Jonathan Hunt (events), Michael Flaherty (landmarks), and Greg and Gayla Nichols (historic).

In addition, judges awarded honorable mention to eight photos. Winners include: Jane Andersen, Liz Boyer, Karen Bradley John Crouch, Ron Hawkins, Howard Hilde, Langley Melendres and Michele Zywiec.

This year's contest, sponsored by *Woodbury Magazine*, drew 384 entries. Judges were *Woodbury Magazine* staffers Emily Bretzel, senior managing art director; Debbie Musser, editor; Julie Pfitzinger, managing editor; and Taylor Severson, interim art director.

The winners will be recognized at the Oct. 11 City Council meeting.



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No tricks, just treats at Afton Road Fire Station

Hey kids, when you're out collecting treats on Halloween, don't forget to stop by Woodbury's Afton Road Fire Station. The firefighters will be handing out candy between 6 and 8 p.m. on Oct. 31.

The Afton Road Fire Station is located at 6301 Upper Afton Road in northwest Woodbury. The Fox Run Road, Radio Drive and Thames Road stations will not be open for trick-or-treating this year.

All monsters and goblins are welcome, but aspiring firefighters are especially popular! Call (651) 714-3600 with any questions.

Postal Patron
Woodbury, MN

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Clear the streets, check the mailboxes! Winter parking rules begin Nov. 1

Woodbury's snow plowing crews are gearing up for the upcoming winter season – tuning up the trucks and stocking up on de-icing materials. They're also asking residents to do their part by removing portable equipment, such as basketball hoops and skateboard ramps, from streets and cul-de-sacs.

Woodbury ordinance prohibits placing recreational materials in the streets, and they present a hazard to the plow operators and motorists alike.

"Once it is covered with snow, the play equipment can become frozen in place, concealed from the vision of drivers," said Tim Thurmes, streets supervisor. "Even if visible, the items block traffic movement and prevent a thorough plowing job."

Trash and recycling containers placed in the streets also block traffic and impact the quality of plowing opera-

tions, Thurmes added. If trash/recycling pickup day coincides with plowing activities, make sure your trash can and recycling bin are well behind the curb in the driveway so the plow will not hit them.

Thurmes also urges residents to check their mailboxes/posts and make any repairs necessary to ensure the structure can withstand the winter plowing season.

"If your mailbox is struck by a plow truck, the city will repair or replace the mailbox, provided the mailbox featured a standard design that conforms to U.S. postal standard specifications for minimum height and setback," Thurmes said. "Mailboxes should be installed and maintained to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow."

The U.S. postal standard specifications for mailboxes are available on the city's website at woodburymn.gov.

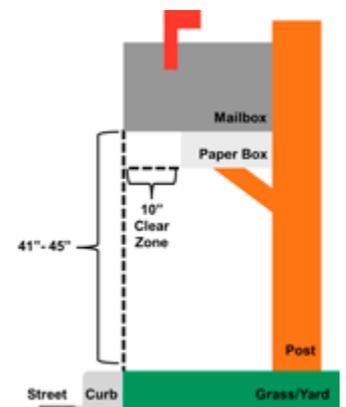
Thurmes noted, it is the resident's responsibility to keep snow cleared away from mailboxes to improve accessibility for mail delivery.

Winter parking restrictions

Residents also need to be aware that Woodbury's winter parking regulations – banning on-street parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. – go into effect once again Nov. 1. The parking restrictions, which are designed to facilitate plowing during the snow season, continue through April 1.

City ordinance also prohibits on-street parking any time 2 or more inches of snow have accumulated, until after the street has been completely plowed. The 2-inch guideline applies to any hour of the day, any time of year.

The winter parking ordinance does not apply to private streets, only to public roadways. Residents who violate the



ordinance will be ticketed. Be sure to tell relatives and guests who may visit your home about the winter parking restrictions, so they will not receive a citation either.

Questions about the winter parking regulations, mailbox installation standards or tree trimming may be directed to the Public Works Department at (651) 714-3720 or publicworks@woodburymn.gov.