Pedestrian safety is the responsibility of motorists and pedestrians

City sidewalks and trails are buzzing with pedestrian activity. Here are some safety reminders for drivers and pedestrians from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety:

- Drivers must stop for crossing pedestrians at marked crosswalks AND at all intersections without crosswalks or stop lights.
- Pedestrians must obey traffic signs and signals at all intersections that have them.
- Vehicles stopped for pedestrians can proceed once the pedestrian has completely crossed the lane in front of the stopped vehicle.
- Pedestrians must not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is approaching and it is impossible for the driver to stop. There is no defined distance that a pedestrian must abide by before entering the crosswalk; use common sense.
- When a vehicle is stopped at an intersection to allow pedestrians to cross the roadway, drivers of other vehicles approaching from the rear must not pass the stopped vehicle.

Safety tips for drivers

- Scan the road and sidewalks ahead for pedestrians. Drive attentively and at safe speeds. Remember, pedestrians can be difficult to see, especially in bad weather or at night.
- Anticipate pedestrians especially around schools.
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians.
- Look carefully behind your vehicle before backing up, especially for small children.
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts, who may be below eye level.
- Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks or stoplights. Stop far enough back so drivers in other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.
- Do not block crosswalks while stopped, and don’t pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.

Safety tips for pedestrians

- Pay attention to the surroundings; electronic devices can be a distraction.
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, but remember that signage and roadway markings alone do not offer sufficient protection.
- Don’t cross mid-block and be sure to obey traffic signals.
- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop.
- Clearly show your intentions to cross.
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles.
- Look across all lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding.
- Continue to be alert and watch for vehicles when walking in a crosswalk - drivers aren’t always looking for pedestrians.
- Use sidewalks where provided - where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safer to walk facing traffic.

Apply for advisory boards

Students encouraged to apply

Applications are being accepted through Friday, Oct. 15, for openings on Woodbury advisory commissions. Residents appointed to these groups serve on a volunteer basis. The term is for three years in most instances.

Joining an advisory commission is a great way to learn more about the community and develop leadership skills. People of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

The city is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the commissions. In some instances, incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

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.

The groups with vacancies in 2022 include:

**Audit and Investment Commission** - The commission assists the City Council in reviewing the city’s financial affairs. Responsibilities include recommending the appointment of the independent auditors and reviewing: the city’s annual financial information, annual audit report and management letter, the adequacy and effectiveness of accounting and financial controls, and the city’s investment policy and portfolio. The AIC generally meets three times per year.

**Economic Development Commission** - The EDC is responsible for developing a strategic plan, including long-range strategies for economic development for the city. The commissioners recommend economic development policies and programs to the City Council and work with the city’s economic development consultant, City Council and staff in promoting the city, attracting economic growth and development, and retaining businesses in the community.

**Parks and Natural Resources Commission** - The commission is responsible for advising the City Council and other advisory commissions regarding matters relevant to parks, natural resources, and recreation. The commission encourages the conservation and preservation of natural resources in order to achieve a more sustainable community. The commission also
Engaged neighborhoods help build safe communities

Each year, on the first Tuesday of August, we invite and encourage neighbors to observe Minnesota Night to Unite by holding block parties and neighborhood get-togethers. It’s one of my favorite evenings of each summer – a time for neighbors and neighborhoods to come together, get to know one another and build a stronger community. It’s so much fun visiting and meeting so many of you alongside Public Safety personnel and vehicles.

This year, I visited with the amazing residents at the Stonecrest Senior Center – many who have been a part of our community for several years and have such interesting stories to share about their lives and the early years of Woodbury. I also dropped by parties in the southeastern part of the community, where new homes are sprouting up, and was so encouraged with seeing how diverse our community is becoming.

Community outreach and engagement

Taking part in these types of neighborhood events is so important to feeling connected to where you live. Plus, neighborhoods that are more engaged – and where neighbors are closely connected – are often safer.

That’s why our Public Safety Department seeks and creates opportunities to connect with community members through shared interest areas. Our goal is to connect through these areas at the officer level, through our programs, and through coordinated events that involve all of public safety.

Public Safety plans to participate in approximately 150 formal community events in 2021, along with hundreds of additional coordinated connections throughout our parks and neighborhoods.

In total, Public Safety staff visited 75 neighborhood block parties on Night to Unite, collecting more than $3,500 in donated gift cards that will be distributed to local organizations that provide resources to families in need throughout South Washington County.

In July alone, our Public Safety staff participated in several community events at Woodbury Lutheran Church, Alma Flor Ada Spanish Immersion Early Learning Academy and Woodmere Apartments. They also teamed up with Parks and Recreation to host the annual Safety Camps for our youth, and escorted more than 30 participants through the streets of Woodbury during the annual Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride.

In August, in addition to Night to Unite, we were at Woodbury Days, the Tiny Tot Triathlon, Cops and Bobbers, and Coffee for Champions to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota.

We also continue working alongside you to improve Public Safety services and operations. The Woodbury Police Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) – a group of resident volunteers – recently assisted with preparing for the addition of a full-time social worker who will work with our Public Safety Department in responding to emergency calls. MAC members are helping with the selection process of the social worker and later with program implementation.

We look forward to continuing our community outreach efforts and meeting you at Big Truck Day on Saturday, Sept. 25 (see page 4), and the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce’s Community EXPO on Saturday, Oct. 2 (right).

How you can engage and stay informed

I encourage you all to get more involved in the community, whether that is attending a community event, signing up for a recreation program, or volunteering with youth sports and activities, in local organizations, places of worship or with us, your local government (see advisory commission article on page 1).

As you can see, there are many different ways to be engaged in our community. If you are unable to attend an event or volunteer, just staying informed about what is happening in the community will help you feel more connected. Even reading this column is a great place to start!

If you want to be the first to know critical information that affects you, sign up to receive emergency calls and texts from our CodeRED emergency calling system and emails about city-sponsored events, programs and meetings from the city’s InTouch email notification system. To sign up, simply use your smartphone’s camera and aim it at the appropriate QR code below or type the link under the QR code into your smartphone’s browser. For those of you who are already registered, you may recall receiving messages through these channels recently about the city’s increased lawn-watering restrictions.

No matter how long you’ve lived here, engaging in your community will help you feel more safe, welcome and connected – so look for opportunities that best fit your lifestyle and get started today!

Visit the city’s booth at Community EXPO Oct. 2!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 2, and plan to attend the Woodbury Community EXPO! The event, sponsored by the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held at HealthEast Sports Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The expo is free and family-friendly.

More than 125 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 to:

- Learn about city facilities, services, recreation programs, development projects and car seat safety; and
- Enjoy a fun, interactive activity for kids.

Outside, the whole family can check out some of the city’s big trucks (weather permitting). With COVID-19 transmission rates reaching the “high” category in Washington County, it is recommended that all guests – fully vaccinated or unvaccinated – wear a well-fitted mask inside the sports center.

For more information or potential status changes related to the event schedule, call the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce at 651-78-0722 or visit woodburychamber.org.
Apply for advisory boards...from page 1

encourages the dissemination of information to, and coordination with, individuals and organizations interested in parks, natural resources and recreation functions such as garden clubs, civic organizations, other communities and other groups providing recreation programming in the city such as athletic groups.

Planning Commission - The Planning Commission is responsible for all questions relating to planning, zoning and sign regulations. It reviews all applications for development and recommends approval or denial based on conformance with the comprehensive plan and zoning regulations.

Watershed District - Watershed districts are special purpose local units of government with taxing and limited regulatory authority. A district is responsible for managing the water resources within its watershed. The boundaries of a district follow the natural boundary of a watershed; therefore, districts typically include multiple cities and/or townships within their jurisdiction. There are three watershed districts within Woodbury. The city makes recommendations for candidates to serve on watershed district boards, but the actual appointments are made by Washington County. Interested candidates will be considered for the district in which they live.

Woodbury residents who are interested in serving on any of these advisory boards may call City Hall, 651-714-3500, to request an application. Applications are also available at woodburymn.gov/commissions. The deadline for returning completed applications is Friday, Oct. 15.

The City Council will interview applicants on Saturday, Nov. 6. Criteria for evaluation include: personal and professional experience which may relate to the subject areas of the board or commission; knowledge of the community; knowledge of city government process; contribution to creating or maintaining a diversity of membership with respect to geographic location, gender, age or race; experience from similar appointments. New appointees begin their terms in January.

Apply now for 2022 Citizens’ Academy

The Woodbury Citizens’ Academy is returning for the 13th consecutive spring in 2022. Applications are being accepted via email by the Woodbury Community Foundation, who sponsors the program.

The Citizens’ Academy consists of eight sessions, designed to educate participants about the city and encourage more involvement in the community. The weekly sessions begin Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, and will end on April 21, 2022. The academy is open to the public and is limited to 30 persons. A $50 donation to the Woodbury Community Foundation is requested. Enrollment is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are interested in applying for the 2022 Citizens’ Academy or would like more information, visit the Woodbury Community Foundation website at woodburyfoundation.org or send a copy of your current resume or volunteer experience via email to Claudia Millington at claudiamillington@gmail.com.

Pedestrian safety...from page 1

- Make it easy for drivers to see you - dress in light colors and wear retro-reflective material.
- Use extra caution when crossing multiple-lane, higher speed streets.

Source: dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/pedestrians-bicycles/Pages/default.aspx

Trail rules and etiquette

Please follow the rules-of-the-trail listed below. Remember, courtesy by all trail users will go a long way to make the trails enjoyable and safe for all users.

- Slow down - It is relatively easy to get a bicycle going fast, especially on downhill grades. Also be sure to reduce speed when rounding a bend or on hills where there is limited visibility of the trail ahead.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians - Bicyclists should slow down when preparing to pass walkers or joggers. If you are the walker or jogger, stay to the right on the trail and be aware of other users. Don’t let your group spread across the entire trail, which creates unsafe conditions for all users.
- Alert trail user that you will pass on left-hand side - If you are biking past a walker or jogger, be sure pedestrians know you are there. Slow as you approach them and offer a warning, such as “Passing on your left.”
- No motorized vehicles, including golf carts and scooters, on trails or grass.
- Park curfew of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. also applies to the trails on park property.

Tips for crossing at roundabouts

Some Woodbury intersections have roundabouts. Here are some reminders from the Minnesota Department of Transportation about crossing safely at roundabouts:

- Cross only at crosswalks, and always stay on the designated walkways.
- Never cross to the central island.
- Cross the roundabout one approach at a time. Use the median island as a halfway point where you can check for approaching traffic.

Source: dot.state.mn.us/roundabouts/pedestrians.html

Police officer A.J. Veenendall (left) talks with participants from the 2018 Citizens’ Academy.
**Woodbury City Update**

**September 2021 • Volume 22, No. 8**

**City of Woodbury**

8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-3330

**Postal Patron**

Woodbury, MN

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### Going south for the winter?
**Turn off water service before leaving**

Residents who head south for the winter months can help prevent plumbing freeze-ups by having the city turn off their water at the curb before leaving.

To learn more, contact the Public Works Department at 651-714-3720. The homeowner must call at least two days in advance of needing the water shut off and be present when staff arrives to shut off the water at the curb.

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### Pedestrian safety reminders
**Page 1**

### Community EXPO
**is Oct. 2**
**Page 2**

### Apply for 2022 Citizens’ Academy
**Page 3**

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### Climb, explore cool vehicles at Big Truck Day Sept. 25

The coolest trucks are convening at the 11th annual Big Truck Day Saturday, Sept. 25. Families can interact with and learn about a variety of trucks, enjoy story time with Washington County librarians and dance to a kid-friendly band at this free community event.

The fun begins at 9 a.m. and continues until noon in the east parking lot of Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place.

Fan-favorite vehicles on display include an ambulance, fire truck and police car! Other vehicles may include a snowplow, school bus, tow-truck, garbage truck, ice cream truck and more.

This event is a partnership between Woodbury Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Public Safety and the Washington County Library. A special thanks to Peace of Mind Early Education and Center, and City & County Credit Union for the financial sponsorship of Big Truck Day.

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### Do you need help with your housing payments?

There are new programs funded by the federal and state governments that can help both renters and homeowners who have fallen behind on their housing payments and who may be at risk of eviction or foreclosure.

A federal moratorium on most type of evictions has been extended through Oct. 3. Additionally, in Minnesota, all lease termination and eviction protections will be lifted Oct. 12, except for eligible renters with pending COVID-19 rental assistance applications.

If you or someone you know needs help making their housing payments, help is available for any Minnesota renter via renthelpmn.org. Tenants with active applications for rental assistance are protected from most forms of eviction.

With regard to homeowners in Woodbury, limited amounts of emergency funding from the federal CARES Act is available and is being administered by the Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) on behalf of the city. For full eligibility criteria and to begin the application process, contact a CDA homeownership specialist at homeownership@washingtoncountycda.org or 651-202-2822.

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**Trail connection**

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