Fourth of July fireworks are back! Pack up the lawn chairs and come to HealthEast Sports Center (HSC) for Woodbury’s annual hometown celebration.

The festivities begin at 7 p.m. with outdoor concessions and food trucks including KCM EggRolls, B to Z, Snack Shack and Mik Mart Ice Cream. Families can bring a football or a Frisbee and enjoy the evening on some green space or play at Madison’s Place playground and the free outdoor splash pad (open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.). In addition, meet Mayor Anne Burt and members of the Woodbury City Council before the fireworks.

The fireworks display kicks off at 10 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early, and bring their own seating and blankets. However, there will be no band performing prior to the fireworks this year. Also, please remember that while sparklers are legal in Minnesota, they are prohibited in city parks.

Event attendees should follow the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines that apply on the event date.

Special thanks to A.J. Alberts Plumbing for sponsoring this year’s event.

The Fourth of July festivities will take place rain or shine. However, in the event of severe weather (high winds, lightning, etc.), the event could be modified or postponed to another date. Any changes to the schedule will be distributed via the city’s website, InTouch email notification system, and posted on the city’s Facebook page (facebook.com/WoodburyMinnesota) and Twitter (@CityofWoodbury and @HealthEastSport) accounts.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at reconline@woodburymn.gov or 651-714-3583.

Parking
HSC is located south of Bailey Road and east of Radio Drive, adjacent to East Ridge High School. Motorists are encouraged to park in the HSC and East Ridge High School parking lots. Pedestrians should utilize all crosswalks. No parking will be allowed along Bailey Road and Radio Drive.

The traffic plan for the event will be published on the city’s website at woodburymn.gov, announced via the InTouch email notification system, and posted on the city’s Facebook page (facebook.com/WoodburyMinnesota) and Twitter (@CityofWoodbury and @HealthEastSport) accounts.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at reconline@woodburymn.gov or 651-714-3583.

Fireworks reminders

When celebrating the Fourth of July this summer, remember that it is illegal in Minnesota to sell, possess and use any fireworks that fly or explode. Some examples of illegal fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets and Roman candles.

However, certain non-explosive and non-aerial consumer fireworks are permitted. Examples include sparklers; cones and tubes that emit sparks; and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website at dps.mn.gov.
The recent trial of Derek Chauvin has reverberated in the community, throughout the City of Woodbury organization and, most importantly, among community members of color. While the jury’s verdict in April may represent a point of closure and justice for some, it is just one chapter in a larger story about race and equity – and the book is far from finished.

Racial inequities remain pervasive and deep in our society, and it is our duty as public servants to understand them, be able to discuss them, and build strategies to overcome them. As we think of our future, reflective of our community’s increasing diversity and our desire to provide access and opportunity to all, we will continue to critically examine our systems, processes and behaviors in order to eliminate disparities in our organization and community.

As President Abraham Lincoln promised a new beginning for the nation – for everyone – in his Gettysburg Address in 1863, he famously stated government should be “of the people, by the people, for the people...” The City Council and I recognize we are in a unique position to exercise leadership to – as it says in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution – “form a more perfect union” and “establish justice.” It is important we continue to have conversations about racial disparities and, accordingly, I want to share more about recent actions the city is taking to advance its efforts in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

Public Safety effectiveness
In 2019, we, the City Council, identified “adapt and enhance Public Safety effectiveness” as a strategic priority. As the community ages and diversifies, there is increasing, and sometimes conflicting, demand for services provided by the Public Safety Department. Proceeding with public safety as a strategic priority, especially in light of recent events, provides the necessary research, detail and focus on these services to ensure the City Council can make informed, long-term and strategic decisions regarding not only the Public Safety Department, but the public safety of the community. This is an ongoing strategic priority.

Multicultural Advisory Committee
In 2020, the Woodbury Police Department Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) formed. This engaged group of volunteers of color advise the Woodbury Police Department in order to enrich the relationship between under-represented community members and the department. By creating opportunities to learn from each other and building trust and communication between the police and community members, we hope to ultimately improve the safety and livability of our community.

Diversifying the workforce
As I wrote in this space in July 2020, a continued area of growth for us is improving the diversity of our workforce in the City of Woodbury organization to be more reflective of the demographics of the community. We have been working on strategies to recruit and hire more diverse candidates for positions across the city organization. We firmly believe that a diverse workforce creates a better spirit of community, sharing of ideas and increased creativity. We hope that open and inclusive employment practices and policies can help attract and retain talented staff from all groups and help us respond appropriately to changing needs and goals in the community.

I encourage you to learn more about our efforts in the areas of race equity, transparency, accountability and building an inclusive community at woodburymn.gov/DEI.

Fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that values all residents and their diversity is paramount to the city’s continued success. We will continue working to ensure all of our community members feel welcome, safe and connected in Woodbury.

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.


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, 651-714-3310; TDD: 651-714-3568.

Drinking water report...from page 1
and has issued health risk advisories on seven of Woodbury’s 19 wells since 2017.

The city removed all seven of these wells from service, and constructed a temporary water treatment facility near the intersection of Valley Creek Road and Tower Drive that brought four of these wells back into service in summer 2020. 3M and the State of Minnesota funded the construction of the temporary facility.

Construction of the temporary water treatment plant was completed in June 2020.

The water delivered to customers continues to meet all state and federal water quality standards and guidelines for PFAS.

“Unlike other chemicals, PFAS monitoring is not currently required as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act,” Westerman explained. “However, MDH has been monitoring City of Woodbury municipal wells for PFAS since the early 2000s, and we’ve continued to update the public about changes in the PFAS testing results and as part of this annual Drinking Water Report.”

Details about the history of PFAS in Woodbury wells and testing results are available on the city’s website at woodburymn.gov.

The state is expected to announce its long-term plan for addressing PFAS in the east metro water supply this summer. Details will be provided on the city’s website and in upcoming editions of the City Update newsletter.

Residents who have questions about their private water supply should contact the MDH.
Know your city code: common code violations

As we approach the beginning of summer, please take some time to review the exterior of your property and look for some of these most common city code violations found within our community:

- **Waste/recycling container storage** – Except for the day of pick-up, waste and recycling containers 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. Exception: containers may be placed at the curb after 4 p.m. the day prior to pick-up.
- **Weeds and tall grass** – Most lawn areas must be maintained so as not to exceed 8 inches in height. Landscaped areas must 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 exceptions from this provision such as outdoor furniture, grills, clothes lines, 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.
- **Animal waste** – While not one of the most common violations, animal waste complaints are the most plentiful in the spring after the snow melts. Animal waste must be removed from private property daily.

If you find violations on your property, please correct them. In many instances, violations occur because people are simply unaware that a requirement exists.

If you have questions or concerns, contact code enforcement at 651-714-2543 or send an email to matt.novak@woodburymn.gov or scott.gay@woodburymn.gov.

Water wisely: Watering rules and rate changes

Residents are strongly encouraged to conserve and efficiently use water when irrigating their lawns. Woodbury city code restricts both the day and time that you can water your lawn. Remember:

- **Lawn watering is prohibited between noon and 5 p.m. every day of the week.**
- **Watering is allowed before noon and after 5 p.m. on an odd/even schedule.** This means that residents with addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, etc.) may water their lawn on even-numbered calendar days. Likewise, those with addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, etc.) may only sprinkle lawns on odd-numbered calendar days.

As of Jan. 1, 2019, homes with private wells must follow the same watering restrictions.

- **Water only if needed.** If your irrigation controller doesn’t monitor rainfall, do it yourself with a rain gauge or weather report. Remember that a healthy lawn needs about 1 inch of water per week, including rainfall. Too much or too little can lead to thinning and weed growth.
- **City Code and State Statute requires all irrigation systems have one of the following in working condition:** rain sensor, soil-moisture sensor or a WaterSense-certified smart controller. If your irrigation system was installed before 2018 and does not meet this requirement, visit woodburymn.gov/waterwise to purchase a smart controller through the city at a discounted rate.

The city’s lawn watering policy is in effect year-round and citations are issued for violations; first-time offenders are not exempt. Special watering permits for newly-placed sod and seed are available at woodburymn.gov/waterpermits.

**New water rates**

As residents, homeowners associations and businesses begin using their irrigation systems, they should remember that the following changes to water rates were made:

- The residential water rate usage tiers increased 20 cents per thousand gallons, increasing the base quarterly water rate (1,000-25,000 gallons) from $1.40 to $1.60.
- The irrigation rate for commercial and homeowner association properties changed from $2.95 to $3.18 per thousand gallons.
- The administrative fixed fee for water also increased $2 per quarter.

The rate increases are needed to support the city’s Water and Sewer Utility Fund, which is being challenged by flat and reduced revenue and an increase in infrastructure replacement activity.
Explore new trails this summer using Avenza Maps

The city has uploaded georeferenced digital maps to Avenza Maps – a popular app for runners – hikers and cyclists, to help with wayfinding on some of the favorite trail routes in the community.

Explore some of Woodbury's most popular trails at avenzamaps.com or by downloading and using the Avenza Maps app on your mobile device. Avenza Maps uses your mobile device's GPS to show your location on the downloaded map.

New participants will not need to create an account to download the maps. The city will continue to add more routes to Avenza Maps. Residents can submit trail requests to bikefriendly@woodburymn.gov.

Step right up! Coin Carnival set for July 16

Join Parks and Recreation for a day filled with games, prizes, a bounce house, temporary tattoos, crazy hair, Puppet Wagon performances and more Friday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HealthEast Sports Center. The carnival is ideal for children ages 2-12 with an adult. Tickets are available for purchase the day of the event on site. The event is scheduled to take place outdoors, but will move inside to the field house in the event of inclement weather.

Register for summer programs and events

Looking for other summer adventures for your family? Discover a wide-variety of programs, classes, unique experiences and activities for all ages in the summer Parks and Recreation brochure. Some popular programs include the Kids Duathlon: Bike it. Run it. Du it!, Tiny Tot Triathlon, Youth Playgrounds, Escape Room Camp, and new this year, the Zombie Apocalypse Chase: Run and Get it Done!

Program listings and registration are available at woodburyparks.com or by calling Woodbury Parks and Recreation at 651-714-3583.