Two positions on the Woodbury City Council will be filled Tuesday, Nov. 3, when voters cast ballots in the state general election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the city’s 16 precincts (see map, page 3).

Both seats are for four-year terms that begin in January. Eight persons have filed for City Council. They are (in alphabetical order): Andrea Date, Susan Klosterman Finke, Amanda Hemmingsen Jaeger, Linda Ji, Deborah A. Larson, Bob Lawrence IV, Temmy Olasimbo and Kim Wilson. They are seeking to fill the Council positions currently held by Andrea Date and Amy Scoggins. Scoggins is not seeking re-election.

In addition to city positions, the November ballot includes the presidential race; U.S. representative for District 4; state senator for District 53; state representative for Districts 53A and 53B; Washington County commissioner for District 5; and soil and water supervisor for District 5.

Polling sites
Polling sites for the general election are the same as those used in the August primary (see list of sites, page 3). If have questions about your precinct and/or polling site, use the Secretary of State’s online polling place finder at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us or call City Hall at 651-714-3500.

Absentee voting
Absentee voting for the general election began Sept. 18 and continues through Monday, Nov. 2. Voters can absentee vote by mail or in-person.

An absentee ballot application can be completed online at the Minnesota Secretary of State website (mnvotes.org). Once the absentee ballot application is completed, a ballot will be mailed to the eligible voter to complete and return via mail. Call 651-430-6175 or visit the Washington County website (www.co.washington.mn.us) for more information.

Washington County voters who wish to vote absentee in-person may do so at the following locations:

- Central Park/R.H. Stafford Library (lower level), 8595 Central Park Place, Woodbury
- Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove
- Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale
- Oakdale Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove
- Headwaters Service Center, 19955 Forest Road North, Forest Lake
- Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd Street North, Stillwater

In-person absentee voting hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional hours will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Absentee voters are encouraged to vote at the beginning of the period (Sept. 18 to Nov. 2) for absentee voting. Absentee voters waiting to vote the last week of the absentee voting period may experience long lines and the potential for a long wait.

See winning photos on page 5

First place (Events): “Red Rock Teacher Parade” By Stephanie Lundell

Judges select winners of 22nd photo contest
The judging is complete and 16 photos earned recognition in the 22nd annual Focus on Woodbury photo contest.

First place winners are Susan Jamison in the people category; Tom Hawkinson, nature; Sigrid Dabelstein, pets; Stephanie Lundell, events; and Brian Myer, landmarks. Woodbury Magazine also invited its readers to cast votes online for their favorite images; Nadine Schultz’s photo received the most votes and earned the “Readers’ Choice” award.

Second place winners are Mackenzie Harding (people), Kent Nye (nature), Samu Miller (pets), Bethany Nordman (events) and Heidi Hopps (landmarks). Taking third place honors are Mackenzie Harding (people), Andy O’Meara (nature), Heidi Hopps (pets), Donna Lloyd (events) and Laila Masoud (landmarks).

This year’s contest, sponsored by Woodbury Magazine, drew 223 entries. Judges were Woodbury Magazine staffers Hailey Almsted, editor; Anthony Bettin, digital editor; Sarah Dovolos, senior managing art director; Emily Handy, art director; and Angela Johnson, managing editor.

The winners will be recognized at the Oct. 14 City Council meeting.
Woodbury was recently recognized by Money magazine as the ninth-best place to live in America and the best place to live in Minnesota. The magazine partially attributed the strong ranking to Woodbury’s strong economy and access to employment opportunities that befit a much larger city. However, Money isn’t the only group that has acknowledged Woodbury as a great place to live and do business; I want to tell you about the Kindeva project, which will serve as the catalyst for future development in the northeast part of our city.

Kindeva Drug Delivery, formerly 3M Drug Delivery Systems, is a leading global contract development and manufacturing organization that specializes in solving complex drug delivery challenges for its pharmaceutical and biotechnology customers. They have announced their intention to construct their global headquarters in Woodbury’s northeast business park area.

The 136,000-square-foot facility will be located at the northeast corner of Settlers Ridge Parkway and Hudson Road and will provide corporate office and administrative spaces, laboratory and testing areas, clean manufacturing and production space, and warehouse/building support areas. While Kindeva has just short of 1,000 employees worldwide, their Woodbury headquarters space will likely open with about 150 employees and room to grow.

This project is consistent with the development vision for the northeast area that is outlined in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, our blueprint for future development. It also aligns with our economic development strategic plan, which prioritizes job growth in the community. Located adjacent to I-94 near Manning Avenue, land uses in the northeast area will likely include businesses that benefit from proximity and access to a major freeway distribution corridor, representing a new development pattern for the city, with a focus on light industrial, manufacturing and distribution uses. With more than 400 acres of contiguous land guided for places to work, the northeast area offers a unique opportunity to diversify the city’s job and tax base.

As the first commercial development in this part of the community, the Kindeva project will establish the northeast area as a first-class business park with access to the freeway, employees and commerce partners, which will forge synergic business relationship.

Construction is expected to begin this fall with the goal of opening for business in July 2021. While full development of the northeast area is expected to take many years due to the sheer size of the area, the Kindeva project is an important first step toward implementing the economic development vision for this area.

Long-term planning

I’m proud to represent one of the “Best Places to Live” in America. While we should be honored by the national recognition, it’s important to note that Woodbury’s success did not happen overnight. It took years of planning by city leaders – past and present – and wise, long-term decision-making to guide Woodbury into an attractive place to live, work and do business.

Our long-standing strategic philosophy of welcoming and planning for our fair share of the region’s growth has helped create our reputation as a great place to live, work and thrive! So as you see new rooftops and soon-to-be built commercial buildings like Kindeva 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 30-plus years. This continued, planned residential growth makes us an exciting, dynamic place to do business and attract businesses like Kindeva.

Development map

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, view the online development map or contact the Planning Division at 651-714-3533 or planning@woodburymn.gov.
Woodbury polling sites:

- Precinct 1:
  - Woodbury Baptist Church
  - 6695 Upper Afton Road

- Precinct 2:
  - Woodbury City Hall
  - 8301 Valley Creek Road

- Precinct 3:
  - Woodbury High School
  - 2665 Woodlane Drive

- Precinct 4:
  - Woodbury Lutheran Church
  - 7380 Afton Road

- Precinct 5:
  - New Life Church
  - 6758 Bailey Road

- Precinct 6:
  - Bailey Elementary School
  - 4125 Woodlane Drive

- Precinct 7:
  - King of Kings Lutheran Church
  - 1583 Radio Drive

- Precinct 8:
  - St. John Lutheran Church
  - 1975 St. John’s Drive

- Precinct 9A*:
  - Brookview Elementary School
  - 11099 Brookview Road

- Precinct 10:
  - Central Park
  - 8595 Central Park Place

- Precinct 11:
  - Lake Middle School
  - 3133 Pioneer Drive

- Precinct 12:
  - Valley Crossing Elementary School
  - 9900 Park Crossing

- Precinct 13A*:
  - Liberty Ridge Elementary School
  - 11395 Eagle View Boulevard

- Precinct 14:
  - Five Oaks Community Church
  - 4416 Radio Drive

- Precinct 15:
  - East Ridge High School
  - 4200 Pioneer Drive
    - (south entrance)

- Precinct 16:
  - St. Ambrose of Woodbury
  - 4125 Woodbury Drive

*State guidelines require the “A” be included in the precinct name to indicate that the precinct’s borders are not formed completely by geographic features (e.g., roadways).
Visually through a remote internet allows you to check on your home remotely. A digital video camera and adjust your home thermostat if the temperature in your home falls too low. A home temperature sensor will alert you via cell phone if the temperature is too high or too low. Other products allow you to monitor and control your home's security, preventing theft and protecting your property.

**Before you leave**
Consider these actions when leaving town for an extended period of time:
- Have a friend or neighbor check your home two to three times a week. Have them change the look every so often to give it a lived-in appearance.
- Have your mail forwarded or have someone pick it up daily.
- Cancel your newspaper.
- Reduce your heat.
- Drain your plumbing system and hot water heater.
- Put recreational vehicle anti-freeze in your plumbing fixture traps and floor drains.
- Have someone clear the driveway and sidewalks of snow and ice.
- Put lights on timers in areas typically lighted at night.

**New technologies help**
A home temperature sensor will alert you via cell phone if the temperature in your home falls too low. Other products allow you to monitor and adjust your home thermostat remotely. A digital video camera allows you to check on your home visually through a remote internet connection.

**City Hall improvements under way**
Remodeling of City Hall began the week of Sept. 14 and will continue through at least November, with some improvements taking place into spring 2021.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and security, and further protect public and staff health by allowing for appropriate physical distancing. The work will also maximize the efficiencies of the current building layout, which will isolate customers and visitors primarily to the lobby area, similar to the configuration at the Public Works and Public Safety Buildings.

**Public impact**
City Hall will remain open during construction. However, the public is encouraged to continue conducting business with the city remotely as much as possible. City staff will be available via phone or email to help with service requests. Some services are also available online at woodbury.mn.gov. If you must come in for service, call the department from which you need service in advance and make an appointment.

The Council Chambers will remain open for public meetings, but the public is encouraged to participate virtually instead of coming in person. Learn more on the Meetings and Agendas tab on the homepage at woodbury.mn.gov.

City Hall meeting rooms will not be available for public use until construction is complete and meetings can be held following the state’s social distancing guidelines. However, City Hall will remain a polling place for the Nov. 3 general election (see list on page 3).

Those visiting City Hall during construction should expect to experience some noise, vibrations, dust and debris. Staff is working with Kraus-Anderson, the contractor, to mitigate these impacts to the extent practicable.

Proposed improvements include:
- Construction of a new front desk and customer service counter with glass partitions to physically separate staff from the public.
- Implementing new secure card access to the building at all entrances.
- Add flexibility to the public conference rooms to accommodate meetings of varying size and needs.
- Upgrading audio/video capabilities in all conference rooms to allow for better remote and in-person meetings.
- Other improvements to the building to maximize space efficiencies and plan for long-term growth.

**Project funding**
Due to federal emergency funds available to provide relief to local governments, the city is in a unique position to act quickly to help plan for, prepare and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The expenditures must be paid by Nov. 15, which increases the urgency related to the timeline.

**Health and safety improvements at public buildings**
In addition to the proposed enhancements outlined above, there are a number health-related improvements already underway or planned for at City Hall and other city buildings, including:
- Upgrading to hospital-grade (Merv-13) air filters on air handlers.
- Adjustments to air handlers to increase outdoor air rates.
- Bi-polar ionization systems are being explored as a potential option to install on air handlers for high occupancy/high-use buildings, which can improve air quality in a number of ways, not just for COVID-19.
- Touchless faucets will be installed in city buildings where practical.

**City Hall history**
The existing City Hall was constructed in 1990 and was renovated in 2007. In 2016, enhancements were made to the Council Chambers and the adjoining conference rooms. At that time, building safety and security upgrades were identified as a need; however, the improvements were delayed and outlined in capital improvement plans for another year.

“Moving forward with the remodeling work now eliminates phasing the project over time, which will reduce overall costs, minimize disruption, and leverage the federal funding, said Engineering Director Chris Hartzell, who is leading the project for the city.

Watch for additional information through the city’s InTouch email notification system and social media accounts. Questions about the project should be directed to the Engineering Department at engineering@woodbury.mn.gov or 651-714-3593.
Focus on Woodbury photo contest winners

First place (People): “Topsy Turvy Summer”  
By Susan Jamison

First place (Nature): “Prepare for Takeoff”  
By Tom Hawkinson

First place (Landmarks): “Fading Day at Miller Barn, Valley Creek Park”  
By Brian Myer

First place (Pets): “Puppy LOVE!”  
By Sigrid Dabelstein

Readers’ Choice: “Love Between Father and Daughter”  
By Nadine Schultz
Woodbury’s snow plowing crews are gearing up for the upcoming winter season. Here are a few ways residents can help:

1. **Remove play equipment 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. When covered with snow, play equipment can become frozen in place, concealed from drivers’ vision. Even if visible, the items block traffic movement and prevent a thorough plowing job.

2. **Keep children safe** – Don’t allow children to build snow forts and tunnels in the snow banks adjacent to the curb, or to play near the curbs. It can be difficult for the plow operators to see children.

3. **Keep trash and recycling containers behind the curb** – Trash and recycling containers placed in the streets block traffic and impact the quality of plowing operations. 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.

4. **Check mailboxes and posts** – Residents are urged to check their mailboxes/posts and make any repairs necessary to ensure the structure can withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. If a mailbox is accidentally 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. The U.S. postal standard specifications for mailboxes are available on the city’s website at woodburymn.gov.

5. **Keep snow cleared away from mailboxes** – It is residents’ 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 winter parking regulations and mailbox installation standards may be directed to the Public Works Department at 651-714-3720 or publicworks@woodburymn.gov.