Public Safety seeks neighborhood leaders for outreach initiative

A critical component of crime prevention is collaboration between law enforcement and the public.

One way our police officers work with residents is through our designated patrol zones program. Each Woodbury patrol officer is assigned to one of five “zones” in the city. When not responding directly to 911 calls, or providing backup to other officers, patrol officers combat on-going crime problems in these specific neighborhoods.

Officers get to know the neighborhoods as well as the people who live and do business there. Relationships are formed, interactions increase, and neighborhood observations are shared more freely. In addition, routine patrols in the same area make it easier for officers to notice patterns of behavior that may lead to criminal activity.

Feb. 24 meeting for neighborhood leaders

To further enhance its community outreach efforts, the Woodbury Public Safety Department is seeking assistance from leaders representing neighborhood homeowners associations and crime watch programs.

These leaders are invited to a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the training room at the Public Safety Building, 2100 Radio Drive. The discussion will focus on identifying effective approaches to crime prevention, sharing crime trends and disseminating specific neighborhood crime and crime prevention information.

If you are interested in representing your neighborhood and plan to attend, email your name and the neighborhood you represent to Michelle Okada at mokada@ci.woodbury.mn.us prior to the meeting so appropriate materials can be prepared.

As always, anyone interested in learning more about a specific crime in their neighborhood can request information through the city’s online service request system via the city’s website at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us. If you don’t have Internet access, you can call Public Safety directly at (651) 744-3600 during weekday business hours.

Prevention tips

In recent months, groups of organized, “professional” burglars have been striking neighborhoods around the Twin Cities, including Woodbury. Most of these burglaries have taken place during weekday hours, when homeowners are away.

There are simple actions residents can take to deter burglaries. The Woodbury Public Safety Department offers these tips:

- Lock all doors and windows, including the door between the garage and home.
- Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and televisions. Making your residence appear occupied will help to deter criminals.
- Clear snow from your sidewalk and driveway. Untouched snow is a clear indication no one is home.
- Get to know your neighbors. Having a trusted neighbor that you can count on to watch your home can be significant for burglary protection.
- See something, say something. If you observe suspicious activity, gather as much information as possible (while staying at a safe distance) and call 911.

If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, obtain as much detail as possible (e.g., description, vehicle color, license plate number, occupants and direction of travel) without endangering yourself. Then call 911 immediately.

Planning a wedding or event?

Consider Woodbury’s scenic Central Park

Weather can be an unpredictable factor when planning a wedding or event. Woodbury’s indoor Central Park offers a unique, tropical venue that can host a variety of events, no matter what time of the year – without the worry of inclement weather!

Full facility rentals are affordable and can accommodate up to 165 people in the banquet room and 250 people with multi-level seating. Guests can easily mingle and explore the bridges, walkways and waterfalls. Large windows provide plenty of natural light during the day and set a romantic tone for intimate evening events or weddings. Full facility renters have the option of upgrading continued page 3

Winter fun at Central Park

A variety of Performances in the Park are scheduled at Central Park’s indoor amphitheater February through April. Giving friends and families a fun escape for everyone from cold winter temperatures, some of the performers and musical performances include:

- Lazy Does It, traditional jazz band, Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m.
- Magic Norm, family comedy and magic show (no school day), Friday, March 11, at 11 a.m.
- Darlene and the Boys, classic country/variety band, Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m.
- Mary Hall Show for Pipsqueeks, kids music and dance (no school day), Friday, April 1, at 11 a.m.
- 194 Xpress, rock/jazz band, Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m.
2016 outlook:

Activity continues at CityPlace and Urban Village; opening of Madison’s Place playground

When I reflect on 2015, I’ll always remember celebrating at Bielenberg Sports Center (BSC) in October as officials from Feed My Starving Children announced our community reached its goal of packing four million meals for hungry people across the globe.

Our community – from individuals, to families to organizations large and small – set what was then a national record for the number of meals packed during a single event. At the same time, we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, with a portion of the funds raised going toward Woodbury’s own Christian Cupboard emergency food shelf.

This is just one memory. There’s many more to share from an active year – much more than I could fit into this column. However, here are some important project updates from 2015 and a look at what’s on the horizon for 2016:

CityPlace

If you have driven through the Radio Drive/I-94 corridor recently, I’m sure you noticed removal of the former State Farm office building is well under way. Elion Partners, the owner and developer of the 100-acre CityPlace development, is repurposing the site into a multi-building office park.

After having the existing building sit vacant for 10 years, I’m thrilled about the opportunity to bring daytime office jobs back to this signature site. The first new office tenant in CityPlace will be TRIA Orthopaedics, which recently submitted plans for a 75,000-square-foot comprehensive orthopaedic care center that will bring high-quality health care jobs and additional health care services to Woodbury. Plans are expected to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council early this year.

The multi-building office park still needs to complete the development review and approval process of the Planning Commission and City Council. As such, the exact number and size of office buildings to be built has not yet been finalized, and construction is not expected to begin until 2017. Stay tuned as future announcements regarding tenants at CityPlace are made.

Urban Village/Bielenberg Gardens

Last year also marked the beginning stages of implementing our vision for development at the southwest intersection of Bailey Road and Radio Drive. A master plan for this area was created in 2012 and tabbed the “Urban Village.” The area serves as a retail/service center for the southern portion of the community and – once completed – will incorporate a mixture of community-scale retail, service and office, as well as medium- to high-density residential and public gathering spaces.

Saint Therese of Woodbury is a senior living community under construction about one-half mile west of Radio Drive along Bailey Road. It will offer the full continuum of care: independent living, assisted living, memory care, long-term care and transitional care. The development will feature convenient connections to the adjacent Bielenberg Gardens retail center, which is anchored by Jerry’s Foods. The first phase of Saint Therese, which already has reservations for all of its 102 independent living units, is slated to open Feb. 29. Construction of the second phase will begin this spring.

Woodbury Flats is a 305-unit apartment community that will feature four buildings, a swimming pool and parking. The project was approved by the City Council in January. Construction is expected to begin this spring and open in 2018. The high density use also is expected to attract other new commercial uses to the Bielenberg Gardens area.

Take the plunge at Carver Lake Feb. 13

Adventure seekers are needed to jump into a frozen Carver Lake on Saturday, Feb. 13, when Special Olympics Minnesota’s Polar Plunge returns to Woodbury’s Carver Lake Beach, 3175 Century Avenue South.

Special Olympics Minnesota is partnering with Madison Claire Foundation to help fund and build Madison’s Place, an inclusive playground adjacent to the splash pad at Bielenberg Sports Center. The universal access play equipment is uniquely designed to optimize accessibility for kids and adults of all capacities. When it opens later this year, Madison’s Place will become the first playground of its kind in the Twin Cities east metro area. The play structure will replace the original 18-year-old equipment at BSC that was removed in spring 2013 to make room for the expanded field house.

There’s still time to sign up for a plunge time slot! To learn more visit: www.plungemn.org/events/woodbury. Be sure to check out the PeeWee Plunge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for kids under age 10. Learn more at www.plungemn.org/activities/woodbury-pee-wee-plunge. Also, you don’t have to plunge to support Special Olympics Minnesota or Madison’s Place playground. Check out the “Too chicken to plunge” option at www.plungemn.org/activities/too-chicken-to-plunge.

I was one of hundreds who jumped into Carver Lake at Woodbury’s inaugural Polar Plunge last year. I was so proud – despite bitter cold – to see our community come together to support this awesome event.

Please don’t wait – assemble a team of family, friends and neighbors, register online and take the plunge! It will make for a great memory in what will be an exciting year ahead!

Local artists invited to exhibit their work

Local artists can display their pieces of artwork for the community to enjoy in the lobby at City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, and at Central Park, 8959 Central Park Place.

Artwork that meets the City of Woodbury community standard of “family friendly” is eligible for display. Artists of all ages have previously displayed artwork such as watercolor works, oil paintings, drawings and textile pieces.

The Parks and Recreation Department will arrange an exhibition period with each artist. The display period typically will be the first weekday of the month until the last weekday of the month.

The displaying artist is responsible for hanging and dismantling his/her own display. The space available will accommodate approximately six to 12 pieces, depending on their size.

If you would be interested in displaying your artwork at City Hall or Central Park, contact recreation specialist Chris Fleck at (651) 714-3586 or cfleck@ci.woodbury.mn.us.

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: jegerstrom@ci.woodbury.mn.us.


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) 714-3398.
Wedding...from page 1

their package to include a private rental of Lookout Ridge indoor playground for events that include children.

Businesses, hobby groups and other private gatherings will find the meeting rooms at Central Park to be comfortable, productive spaces complete with pull-down projectors, TVs, adjustable lighting, and a DVD player.

“Central Park is a truly unique venue that will leave a lasting impression on guests,” said Chris Fleck, City of Woodbury recreation specialist. “We still have dates open in 2016 and encourage renters to book their dates for 2017 now.”

Contact Fleck at (651) 714-3586 or by email at cfleck@ci.woodbury.mn.us to schedule a tour of Central Park today.

“The venue wowed our guests and met or exceeded all of our needs. It is an amazing venue to hold an event.”

~ previous Central Park wedding bride

Winter fun...from page 1

All concerts are free (no reservations required) and family-friendly!

Other upcoming Parks and Recreation events at Central Park:
- **Central Bark Pet Expo:** Pet enthusiasts and local pet businesses can meet with a variety of organizations to learn about the latest pet news. The free event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For safety reasons, no personal pets will be allowed at this event.
- **Sundae Bingo:** Create delicious ice cream sundaes while enjoying a variety of bingo games. The delicious event is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 14, and Sunday, March 13. Each session will begin at 2 p.m. and will last about 90 minutes. Pre-registration is required and dates are filled on a first come, first served basis. The event will take place in the Valley Creek Room B and costs $3 per person ($5 per person for non-residents). To register, visit www.ci.woodbury.mn.us or call Woodbury Parks and Recreation at (651) 714-3583.

Woodbury Central Park is located at 8595 Central Park Place.

Stay connected with the City of Woodbury

The City of Woodbury maintains an ongoing, multi-faceted communications program using a variety of print and electronic tools. Residents and businesses can stay up-to-date with the latest happenings around Woodbury by connecting with the city in ways that best fit your lifestyle.

Current city communications vehicles include:
- **Woodbury website:** located at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us, the website is a great resource for information about the city. It features a comprehensive city calendar, and highlights popular e-services such as the recreation program registration system and the online utility bill payment system.
- **Woodbury City Update:** a printed newsletter mailed to all residents and businesses 10 times a year, with a GreenTimes environmental insert three times a year.
- **InTouch email notification:** an email subscription service providing news and information about a variety of topics. Sign up to receive InTouch messages on the city’s website at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us/intouch.
- **Woodbury Citystyle:** a magazine-style program produced monthly and broadcast on cable TV (Channel 18) with the help of the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission (SWCTC). All City Council meetings and some advisory commission meetings also are broadcast live and rebroadcasted throughout the week on Channel 16. Programming is available on demand at www.swetc.org.
- **Parks and Recreation brochure:** a detailed collection of recreation program offerings mailed to all residents and businesses three times a year in March, August and November.
- **CodeRED:** The CodeRED emergency telephone calling system uses the 911 database and published White Pages information for its notification lists. To add or change a number, including adding a mobile phone number, or to opt for a text message and/or email alert, self-register at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us/emergency-preparedness/codeder-emergency-mass-notification-system.
- **Facebook:** six Facebook pages are operated by the city: general city news; Bielenberg Sports Center; Eagle Valley Golf Course; Parks and Recreation; Adult Athletics; and Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- **Twitter:** four Twitter accounts are operated by the city, including general city news (@CityofWoodbury), Woodbury Public Safety (@WoodburyMNPS), Bielenberg Sports Center (@bielenberg_sc) and Eagle Valley Golf Course (@EagleValleyGC).
- **YouTube:** an assortment of short, engaging videos are available on the city’s YouTube channel with the help of the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission. Visit www.youtube.com/ CityofWoodburyMN.
- **Instagram:** Bielenberg Sports Center is on Instagram providing visual images of the daily activities and events happening at the facility, www.instagram.com/bielenbergsportcenter.
- **Pinterest:** The City of Woodbury is on Pinterest providing visual images of the community and relatable content pertaining to activities and events in the city, www.pinterest.com/cityofwoodbury.
City seeks input about Central Park
As Woodbury continues to grow and community needs change, the city is evaluating the services and uses of the community gathering space at Central Park. A short user survey is now available online and at the facility. The feedback gathered will be used to assess possible changes to the programs and services offered at the building.

You can access the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CentralParkUserSurvey or by visiting the city’s website at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us. If you do not have Internet access, you can complete a paper version of the survey at the Central Park information desk.

The survey will be available through the end of March. Questions should be directed to Sarah Alig, assistant to the city administrator, at (651) 714-3541 or salig@ci.woodbury.mn.us.

Please clean up after your pet!
Woodbury’s parks and trails are used year-round. Even during frigid weather, folks come out for a brisk jog or a hike through the snowy landscape. But tranquil trail walks can be marred by the unsightly mess left behind by people who don’t pick up after their pets.

City ordinances require pet owners to carry supplies for excrement removal when walking a pet off their property; pets also must be leashed anytime they are off their owner’s property. All messes on public property – including the off-leash dog park – or on the private property of others must be cleaned up. The city has received several complaints about pet feces left on public trails this winter.

“We need the help and cooperation of pet owners to keep our parks and trails clean and enjoyable for everyone to use,” said Parks and Recreation Director Bob Klatt. “The requirement to pick up after your pet is in effect year-round, not just during summer-time. We hope people will be courteous to others and comply with the ordinance.”

Persons who do not comply may be cited for violating city code and fined. Summaries of the animal control ordinances pertaining to pets are available at City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road. Information also is available via the city’s website at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us. Select “City Code” and refer to chapter five.

Summer jobs available at the city
Are you currently seeking summer employment opportunities lasting from 3 to 6 months?

The City of Woodbury is now taking applications for summer seasonal positions for our maintenance, golf course and recreation programs.

Positions available include:
- Pee Wee sports
- Youth sports
- Puppet Wagon
- Playground program leaders
- Camp Carver leaders
- Lifeguard
- Maintenance in the Utilities, Parks and Streets Divisions (3-month and 6-month positions available)

There are also several positions available at Eagle Valley Golf Course, including:
- Golf course maintenance worker
- Banquet attendant
- Golf shop attendant
- Outside service

The minimum age requirement is 16 for golf course and recreation positions. Applicants for the Utilities, Parks and Streets maintenance positions must be at least 18 years old.

Interested individuals should apply online at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us. Select “Employment” in the “Quick Links” menu on the home page. Call (651) 714-3500 or email hr@ci.woodbury.mn.us with any questions.