

**Inside this issue:**

**Excellence:** Minnetonka Schools ..... Page 1

Welcome New Council Member..... Page 1

Truth in Taxation Hearing Announcement ..... Page 1

2018 Preliminary Budget ..... Page 2

Spotlight: Harvest Your Rain! [Thinking Ahead] ..... Page 3

Mail Theft Reminder..... Page 4

Fall Yard Waste ..... Page 4

Snow Plow Etiquette ..... Page 4

False Alarms—Impact on City Budget..... Page 4



**EXCELLENCE  
Minnetonka Schools**

Minnetonka Schools accomplishments are numerous. Here are just two examples of excellence in education provided by the school district.

**Top-ranked internationally—International tests place  
Minnetonka students first in the world  
in reading and science**

Last year, the Minnetonka School District reported that Minnetonka students rank second in the world on exams administered by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Shanghai students had outperformed Minnetonka students in reading, math, and science—*until 2015*. Now in reading and science, Minnetonka students surpass scores of Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Switzerland, Finland—and the list goes on. In math, Shanghai retained the top spot.

What is most incredible about the strong performance on the PISA, is the scientific method used to ensure a cross-section of Minnetonka’s average 15-year-old students are tested. When we think of “middle” students, this test tells us how they perform compared to the rest of the world. It also evaluates how the Minnetonka Schools prepares students for an internationally competitive economy. The sole purpose of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which administers the PISA exam, is to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. They measure 80

economies and countries to understand what drives an economy and predicts future trends. Minnetonka’s strong results on these international measures provide reassurance that Minnetonka students will thrive in the global economy.

2015—2016  
School Year:  
Graduation rate for  
Minnetonka High School  
increased to 98.1%.

**WELCOME TO SHANNON EVANSTED  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Shannon joined the City Council on August 14th and is a welcome addition to the Council. She has been very active in the Maplewoods Neighborhood Association in the City and also has an extensive background in volunteerism with several area organizations and foundations.

Shannon will serve as the City Council liaison for the Police and Fire Departments in addition to working with the departments in emergency preparedness.

**Truth in Taxation Hearing  
December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall  
20225 Cottagewood Road  
Deephaven, MN 55331**

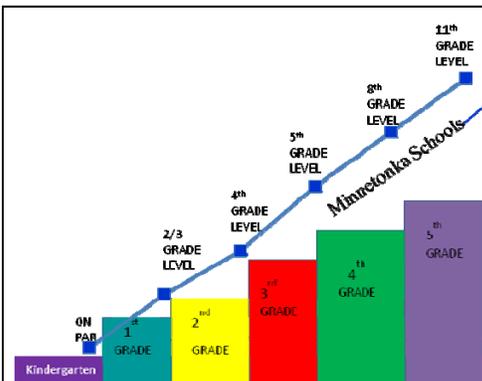
*Please turn to **Page 2** of this newsletter for additional information on the City’s Preliminary 2018 General Fund Budget and Levy.*

**Grade levels ahead of peers nationally**

When kindergarten students enter Minnetonka Schools, they arrive on par with kindergartners nationwide. Over the next six years, a transformation occurs as they excel.

By the end of elementary school, the average fifth grader is performing beyond the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level in reading and math compared to national norms. The graph to the left shows that at the end of each grade, students are performing many grade levels ahead of peers nationally based on the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress.

Thank you to the Minnetonka Public School District for granting permission to use these articles. These articles and more can be found in the Minnetonka School District. 2016 Annual Report at: [www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us](http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us)



## 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

The City's tax levy accounts for approximately 1/10 of a typical Woodland property's total tax bill and reflects one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Minnesota. The bulk of residents' tax bills represents levies by Hennepin County, the School District, and various other taxing authorities.

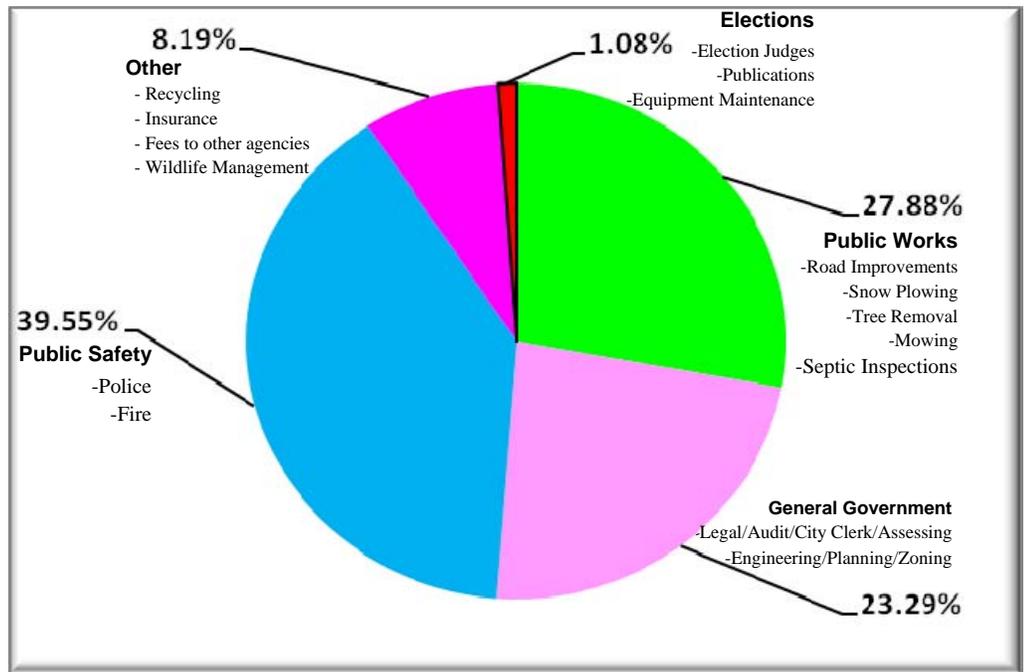
The proposed preliminary levy increase is 2.8% and the proposed budget expenditure increase is 1.25%.

After adoption of the preliminary levy, the levy cannot be increased. The levy may be reduced prior to adoption of the final budget and levy in December.

The City Council will hold its Truth in Taxation Hearing, as part of the regular Council meeting

scheduled for **Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** The public is invited to attend and comment on the 2018 budget and levy. The City anticipates adopting the final 2018 Budget and Levy at this meeting.

## General Fund Budget Expenditures



**NOTE:** There is an increase in the Public Safety budget from 33.36% in 2017 to 39.55% in 2018. **Public safety is a key priority for the City of Woodland.** For many years Woodland's partnership with the Wayzata Fire Department has ensured the City's residents a timely and high quality fire and emergency response. Woodland has experienced an increased calls that were the result of an alarm system malfunction or inadvertent alarm triggering by building and repair contractors.

Please see Page 4 for reminders regarding alarm systems and false alarms.

**Police and fire protection** remains our top priority. Demand for these services continue to increase. Approximately 39.55% of the budget is allocated to the public safety services provided by Deephaven Police and Wayzata Fire Department.

**Public works** is another high priority and 27.88% of the budget pays for road maintenance, snow and ice removal, tree trimming, street sweeping, and rehabilitating City streets.

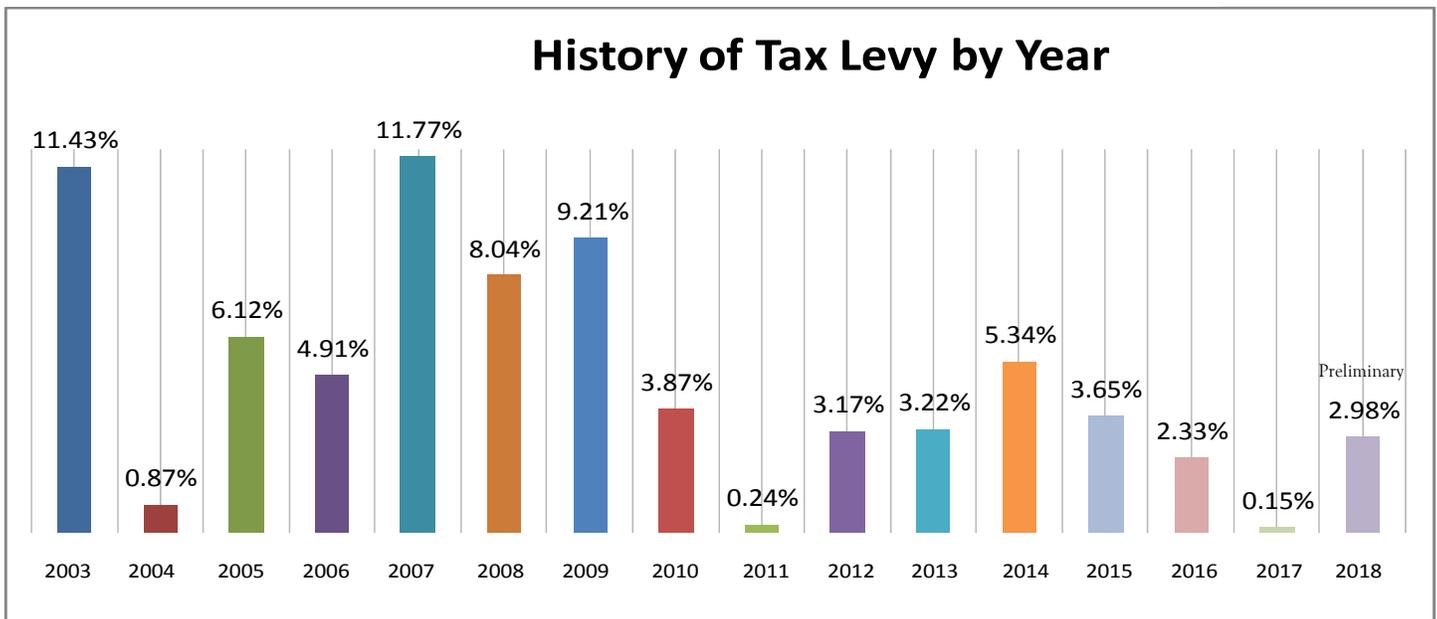
**General government** accounts for 23.29% of the budget and consists of assessing services, legal and auditing services, engineering, city planning and zoning administration, recycling, and insurance.

**Other** is at 8.19% and includes recycling, insurance, fees to agencies, and wildlife management.

**Elections** are held even-numbered years at account for approximately 1.08% of the City's expenditures.

**Property taxes** represent approximately 93% of the General Fund revenues. The remainder is from various permits, zoning fees, and court fines.

## History of Tax Levy by Year



## Rain Gardens—Managing Stormwater Runoff

### What Is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression filled with flood-tolerant shrubs, flowers and grasses. Its main functions are to collect and filter stormwater runoff, but rain gardens also add beauty to the landscape and may attract butterflies and birds.

### What Are the Benefits of Rain Gardens?

Whether you live in the city or along a lake or river, managing stormwater runoff is important.

Rooftops, roads, driveways, and sidewalks are hard surfaces that prevent rainwater and melting snow from reaching the soil and soaking into the ground. These hard surfaces also tend to collect nutrient-rich yard and pet debris, oil and radiator fluid from autos, and other debris and pollutants. During a rain event or snow melt, fast-moving runoff washes the nutrient-rich debris and other harmful pollutants away, often directly into lakes, rivers, and wetlands. The greater amount and increased speed of water flowing off hard surfaces can erode soil and carry it into our surface waters.

In the summer, runoff is often warmed as it flows over hard surfaces. If the warm runoff enters lakes and rivers directly, it can affect aquatic life.

A rain garden is one way to address all of these problems. Rain gardens are designed to collect stormwater runoff, preventing the runoff from flowing directly into lakes, rivers, and wetlands. They allow runoff to soak into the soil, filtering out pollutants before entering the groundwater.

Rain gardens also allow sediments to settle and plants to absorb nutrients.

### Design and Placement of Rain Gardens

It is best to sketch a design before you start digging. Rain garden designs can be simple or elaborate, depending on your gardening interest and experience. When designing a rain garden consider garden placement, the size you need, the shape you want, the soil type, and the plants you'd like to include. You may need to design more than one rain garden into your landscape to accommodate the runoff.

First, determine areas of your property that are suitable for a rain garden. These will generally be low areas that are the recommended distance away from other features. Rain gardens should be placed 10 feet or more away from buildings to prevent foundations and basements from being damaged by water. The rain garden should also be placed 35 feet or more from septic system drain fields, 50 feet or more from drinking water wells and well away from utility lines. Call Gopher State One Call BEFORE YOU DIG.

Next, test the soil in areas that are both suitable and near the sources of runoff. The kind of soil in which you construct the rain garden is of utmost importance. Remember, the purpose of rain gardens is to absorb and filter runoff water, so the soils need to be porous enough to soak up water within 48 hours. Forty-eight hours is the standard because it's likely to be the shortest period between two rainstorms; and will prevent garden plants from drowning and rain gardens from becoming mosquito breeding grounds. A simple test of a soil's ability to absorb water is to dig a wide hole 10 inches deep and fill it with water; if the water disappears within 48 hours, the site is suitable for a rain garden. If your first site fails the 48-hour test, test the soil at other potential rain garden sites on your property.

### Rain Garden Shape and Size

Rain gardens can be designed in any shape- crescent or kidney shapes are attractive-but a long and narrow rain garden may be better suited if you are placing it between structures, such as a house and sidewalk.

The size of your rain garden will depend upon the size of the roof, driveway, or other hard surface being drained. Typical rain gardens range from 100 to 300 square feet in size and, as a rule of thumb, will handle the runoff from a hard surface that is about three times their size. For larger surfaces, more than one rain garden may be needed to handle the runoff. For example, large roof tops may need a rain garden near each down spout.

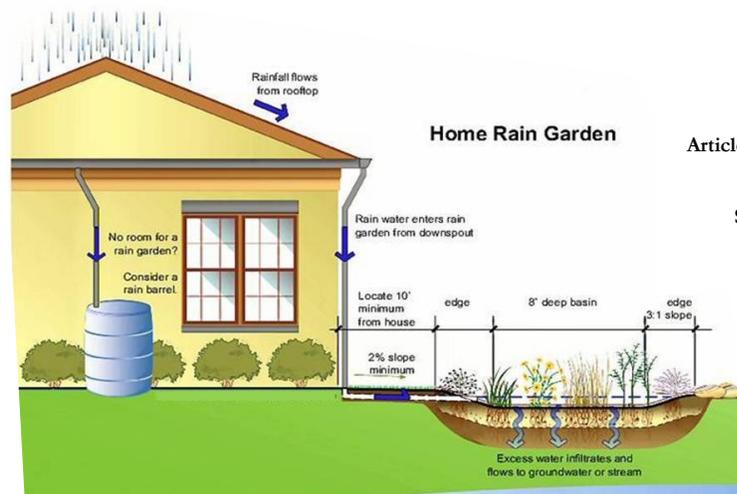
### Selecting Plants

Choose plants appropriate for the soil type in your rain garden and that will also tolerate standing water for up to 48 hours. Many native plant species are well suited for rain gardens.

If you are constructing a rain garden near a lakeshore or riverbank, you may be required to use native plants, depending upon local ordinances-so check with your local Soil and Water Conservation District. For recommendations on rain garden plants, see the websites below.

### Constructing and Planting a Rain Garden

Once the size, shape, and location of the rain garden has been decided and plants have been selected, construction can begin. Lay out a rope or garden hose in the desired shape to use as a guide for digging. The depth of the depression may vary from 4 inches to 10 inches. For best infiltration the bottom of the rain garden should be level. If your garden is placed on a slope, use the soil from digging to create a berm on the downhill side of the rain garden. Excess soil should be removed from the site.



Article used with permission from the University of Minnesota Extension Service Faculty and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

**REMINDER: Stolen Mail and Identity Theft!**

The Deephaven Police Department has responded to complaints regarding mail thefts over the past several months. Thieves are looking for credit cards, account numbers, and anything with personal information. The risk of mail theft can be reduced. **We are asking residents to consider installing locking mailboxes.** Think of a locking mailbox as an insurance policy on your identity. Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes.

**If you believe your mail was stolen, call the Deephaven Police immediately.**

**Disposing of Fall Yard Waste**

Yard and tree waste includes brush, garden debris, grass clippings, leaves, plants (indoor and outdoor), compost, mulch and wood chips. It is illegal to put yard and tree waste in your household garbage.

**Disposal Options**

Some yard waste materials can be picked up at the curb by your private waste hauler. Contact your private hauler to learn if this option is available to you.

Local Waste Haulers:

- Waste Management—952-860-1100
- Allied Waste—952-941-8394
- Randy’s Sanitation—763-972-3335
- Vintage Waste—952-472-0401

**Snow Removal**

City snow plow operations begin in the early morning hours to facilitate morning work traffic after two inches or more of snow have accumulated. If there is an accumulation of drifting snow, or if ice and/or freezing rain affects road conditions, the vehicles will be on the roads plowing and sanding.

**Snow Plow Etiquette**

- Never pass a snow plow by driving on the shoulder.
- Plows frequently stop and back up. The driver has a “blind zone” and may not see your vehicle if you are following too closely.
- Never drive into the “cloud” a snow plow kicks up. The cloud can create a “white out” and cause complete loss of visibility.

**Please don’t push snow into or across the street**

The removal of snow or ice from private property and placing it in the roadway of any street or private road is not only not allowed, it’s prohibited by State Statute.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** is a key priority for the City of Woodland. For many years Woodland’s partnership with the Wayzata Fire Department has ensured the City’s residents a timely and high quality fire and emergency response. In an emergency, response time is of great importance. Fires start small and grow rapidly. The importance of response speed in health emergencies cannot be overemphasized. Calls of this nature receive an immediate response, without exception. Woodland is committed to be a responsible partner with Wayzata. We need your help to respect emergency responders and control Woodland expenses.

**THE PROBLEM**

As you can see by the table below, Woodland has experienced an increased number of emergency calls, some fire calls were the result of an alarm system malfunction or inadvertent alarm triggering by building and repair contractors. These false alarms unnecessarily subjects emergency responders to the risks of responding to a call and substantially increases the cost of the City’s emergency coverage by the Wayzata Fire Department. Woodland shares the cost of Wayzata’s Fire Department and our share of the operating cost is based on our portion of total emergency calls.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Please keep your alarm system in good condition. Fire alarm systems should receive regular maintenance and testing. If you are performing building maintenance or renovation, help your contractors understand your alarm system.

ANNUAL FIRE SERVICE BUDGET INCREASES		
Year	Woodland’s Portion of Total Emergency Calls	Woodland Annual Expense
<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>7.79%</b>	<b>\$ 34,253</b>
2016	6.48%	\$ 27,526
2015	4.73%	\$ 17,316
2014	5.27%	\$ 22,239
2013	5.26%	\$ 20,429
2012	5.25%	\$ 20,388
2011	6%	\$ 23,166
2010	6%	\$ 23,508
2009	6%	\$ 25,653
2008	6%	\$ 20,987

City Contact Information	
<b>Mayor</b>	
Jim Doak.....	952-473-1308
<b>Council Members</b>	
Shannon Evenstad .....	952-249-1229
John Massie.....	612-889-1333
Tom Newberry .....	651-642-4242
Vince Suerth.....	952-473-8213
<b>Woodland City Hall</b>	
City Hall.....	952-474-4755
Police .....	952-474-7555