Welcome Council Member Daniels

Woodland's newly-elected council member, Dave Daniels, is a former resident of nearby Deephaven and Orono. He and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Woodland in 2012 where they have been painstakingly reestablishing native flora on their property.

With esteem for the City Council’s standards of respect, fairness and transparency, Daniels is interested in resident priorities including invasive plant species, light pollution and road maintenance. He also hopes to add value to redevelopment discussions. Daniels is retired from a career in winter sports and holds a degree from St. Olaf College in economics and family studies.

Congratulations Council Member Massie

Council Member John Massie begins his third term in January, motivated to run for re-election to preserve the City of Woodland’s beauty and charm through a time of change. He grew up in Woodland and returned 24 years ago. A graduate of the University of Utah, Massie makes a career as a self-employed business owner of Skijammers Ski School and a dozen Great Clips franchises. He enjoys learning the mechanics of running a city.

New City Clerk

In September, Sara Skalle joined the staff at City Hall as Woodland’s city clerk. A 29-year resident of the City of Woodland, Skalle lends a skillset honed by 30+ years in marketing leadership roles. For many years, she has served as head election judge, working with Shelly Souers and Kathy McCullum, and is happy to serve in a larger role.

General Election Day by the Numbers

Voters in the City of Woodland consistently turnout in high numbers for elections. Here are the counts from the 2018 General Election on November 6.

- 349 registered voters at poll opening
- 16 new registrations
- 78 absentee ballots
- 304 residents voted

Next Elections

- Presidential Primary - March 3, 2020
- General Election - November 3, 2020

If you are unable to make it to the polls on these dates, MNVotes.org is the easiest way to vote absentee. Your ballot will be mailed directly to you with a postage-paid return envelope. If you prefer to come to City Hall, please allow 15 minutes for processing.
Living with Wildlife

COYOTES

Woodland's large lots provide an inviting, natural habitat for coyotes. Coyotes prefer to avoid humans and can be very hard to find, but they are highly resourceful and have learned to thrive in almost every metropolitan area in the United States.

According to National Geographic, a GPS-collared coyote and his mate raised a litter of five healthy pups inside a concrete den right in the parking lot of Soldier Field Stadium, home of the Chicago Bears.

Trapping, killing or relocating coyotes does not reduce the population. Since coyotes are territorial, removing animals simply creates opportunity for new coyotes to move in.

We may perceive them to be solitary animals because they hunt and travel alone, but coyotes are highly social, pack animals. A coyote truly on its own is an exception and is usually a juvenile in search of a new pack.

A pack includes an alpha male and female, one or two older offspring from previous seasons, and the current litter of pups. Coyotes are faithful to their mates for life, which contributes to their success in urban settings.

Coyotes naturally hunt during the day. The only reason they will hunt at night is to avoid humans. You'll spot coyotes more often in the spring and summer while they're raising pups, because they're hunting more frequently and when prey is more active.

Opportunistic feeders, coyotes will take advantage when they can, but our garbage and pets are not a preferred food source. The most commonly eaten food items are small rodents (42%), fruit (23%), deer (22%), and rabbit (18%), according to a study by the Urban Coyote Research Program analyzing more than 1,400 scats. Only 2% showed any sign of human garbage consumption and the indication of pet consumption was even less. On a positive, coyotes help manage the urban populations of rodents, deer and geese.

Do not feed coyotes, even unintentionally. Store or remove of any kind of food source where coyotes cannot get at it, especially pet food, compost bins, garden produce or fallen fruit. Do not leave small pets unattended for long periods of time. If not encouraged by unintentional feeding, coyotes should be able to quietly coexistence with humans.

To learn more, go to UrbanCoyoteInitiative.com. Working nationwide, the Urban Coyote Initiative encourages coexistence with coyotes and promotes healthy natural ecosystems in urban spaces through exceptional photography and other visual media.

With most wildlife, leave them alone and they’ll leave you alone. If you do have an issue, contact the Deephaven Police Department at (952) 474-7555.
On December 10, the Woodland City Council voted to approve the final General Fund budget and property tax levy for 2019.

As the top priority, Public Safety is the largest budget item again in 2019, increasing 7 percent from 2018. Woodland residents receive high quality emergency services through long-standing partnerships with the Deephaven Police Department and Wayzata Fire Department. False alarm fire calls continue to be a costly problem.

Second largest portion of the budget is allocated to Public Works, which consistently comprises just more than a quarter of the City’s total expenditures.

Two things caused the General Government portion of the budget to increase 6 percent for 2019: legal fees due to litigation and personnel budget increases, largely due to medical insurance for staff.

Election spending is minimal as 2019 is not an election year.

The Other portion of the budget has decreased 7 percent from last year, as the City has found ways to pare back items in this category.

Property taxes comprise nearly 94 percent of the revenues supporting the General Budget of $404,520. The remainder comes from various permits, zoning fees and court fines.

The City of Woodland’s property tax levy increased 3.2 percent from 2018. At less than one-tenth of a typical property’s total tax bill, the Woodland levy remains one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the state.

The volatility of levy increases has been reduced over the past eight years, due to the City’s adopting a street improvement reserve. This reserve receives regular levy support, in contrast to imposing a levy based on actual road improvement or repair which can vary widely year to year.

Vitals App
Protecting people with visible and invisible conditions

The Vitals App is available to residents of Woodland and supported by our police department. It enables officers to identify individuals who may need extra care in emergency situations and to understand how to de-escalate a situation of agitation stemming from an invisible condition like hearing impairment, anxiety, autism or Alzheimer’s.

First responders can read profile information from a Vitals pendant up to 80 feet away. The Vitals app and pendant are free to individuals, expenses are paid by our police department.

It can save lives and ease stressful situations. Learn more at www.thevitalsapp.com.
NEWS YOU CAN USE

Polite Lights
As with all things, show consideration to neighbors and wildlife by not over doing with landscape lighting, by shielding flood lights and by turning off lights at a reasonable hour so everyone gets a good night’s sleep. When in doubt, talk with your neighbor.

Winter Pedestrian Safety
Heavy snowfalls narrow Woodland streets so it is a season for both drivers and walkers to be alert and cautious. When driving, please slow down around corners, especially at night. Bright colors and reflective outerwear or flashlights are smart for walkers and runners.

No Parking on City Streets
By ordinance, parking is prohibited on City streets with the exception of designated parking zones, available for temporary use through parking permits obtained at City Hall. Homeowners should make provision for parking guest and service vehicles on their property and not on City streets. Illegally parked vehicles are subject to citation by our police.

Prevent Identity Theft
Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes and the effects can be devastating and lasting. Since the introduction of microchip credit cards in 2015 in the United States, which make the cards difficult to counterfeit, criminals shifted focus to new account fraud. New account fraud occurs when a thief opens a credit card or other financial account using a victim’s name and other stolen personal information. How many credit card solicitations do you receive each month? Make a resolution to protect your identity, and invest in a locked mailbox.

Snow Removal
Woodland streets will be plowed with accumulations of two inches or more or when icing presents a hazard. Plowing and salting begins in early morning to clear streets for commuter traffic. Please remember that Minnesota State Statutes prohibit placing snow from private property on roadways.

Christmas Trees
Do not place Christmas trees at the roadside unless you have made special arrangements for their pickup with your garbage service. The City does not dispose of Christmas trees.

Call the City Clerk at 952-358-9936 when you have questions.