

ESSENTIAL DATES & NEWS

City Hall Holiday Hours

Closed January 1, 21 and February 18 for New Years Day, MLK Jr. Day and Presidents' Day. See regular hours p.2

No parking on city streets

Except with a permit and in temporary parking zones

Christmas Tree Disposal

Do **not** put trees out unless you have a pickup set with your garbage service

2018 Q4 Utility Statements

Mailing by January 4
Payments due by January 31

January City Council Meeting

January 14, 7:00 p.m.

January 17 Recycling Pickup

Regular recycling pickup for 2019 begins on Thursday, January 17, and continues every other Thursday through the year. Find a link to the recycling calendar at our website, woodlandmn.org.

February City Council Meeting

February 11, 7:00 p.m.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The **National Fire Protection Association** says chimneys, fireplaces, and vents should be *inspected once a year* for soundness, freedom from deposits, and correct clearances.

Benjamin Franklin said an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

We love our pets! If you have *more than two dogs*, please call the City Clerk (who has three) to obtain a multiple dog permit.

Minnetonka water/sewer customers may sign up for *automatic utility payments* by calling the City Clerk.

If the mailing label on this newsletter needs updating, please call the City Clerk at 952-358-9936.

Have content ideas for the newsletter? Email sara@woodlandmn.org.



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.

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall

(Woodland, Deephaven, Greenwood)
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55391

Open Monday - Friday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Memorial Day through Labor Day,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and
closed at noon on Fridays

www.woodlandmn.org

City Clerk

Sara Skalle
952-358-9936
sara@woodlandmn.org

Mayor

James Doak

2019 Council Members

Dave Daniels
John Massie
Tom Newberry
Vincent Suerth

City Council Meetings

2nd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Residents always welcome!
Agendas & minutes on website

Deephaven Police Department

952-474-7555 Non-emergency
763-525-6210 Dispatch

Wayzata Fire Department

952-404-5337 Non-emergency

Gopher State One Call

Call before you dig!
811 or 800-252-1166

Zoning Coordinator

Dale Cooney
952-358-9938

Permits

Teresa Pendleton
952-358-9935

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

Chris Rich, Board Member

Newsletter Editor

Sara Skalle

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.



© Jaymi Heimbuch / Urban Coyote Initiative

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.

2019 Final Budget and Levy

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.

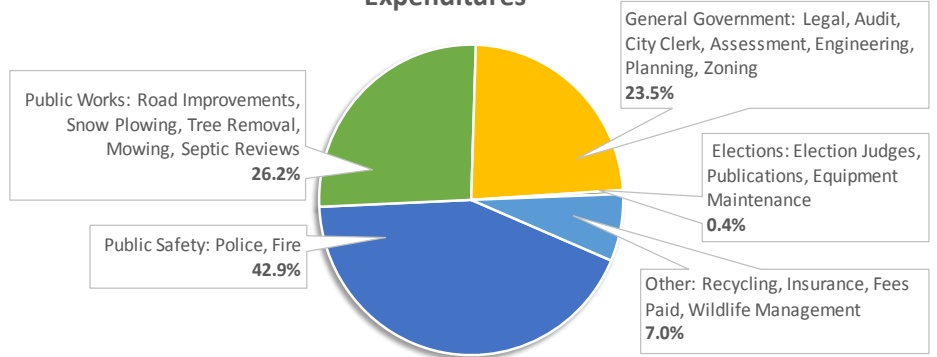
Two things caused the General Government portion of the budget to increase 6 percent for 2019: legal fees due to litigation and personnel budget increases, largely due to medical insurance for staff.

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

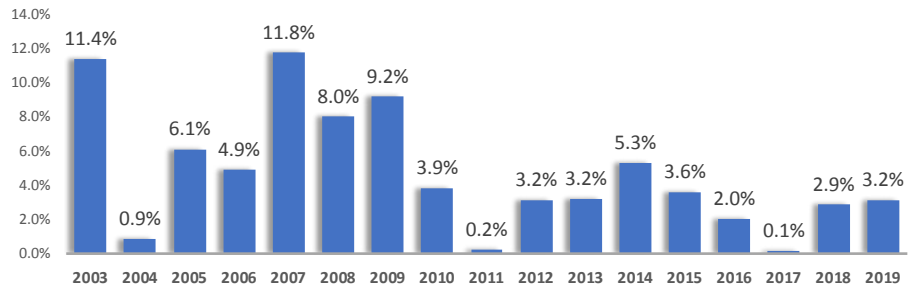
The Other portion of the budget has decreased 7 percent from last year, as the City has found ways to pare back items in this category.

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.

2019 General Fund Budget Expenditures



Woodland Levy History By Year and Percentage Change



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.

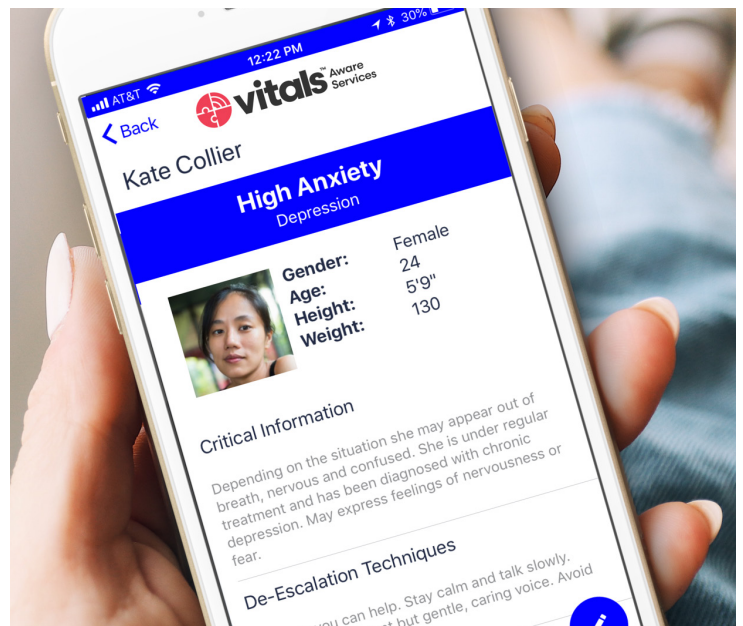
Vitals App

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.





Woodland City Hall
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

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.