

## ESSENTIAL DATES

### December 20

Warming houses at Thorpe Park and City Hall ice rinks open.

### December 25 and January 1

City Hall is closed

### January 13, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting

### January 17

Absentee voting opens for the Presidential Nomination Primary

### January 20

City Hall is closed

### February 10, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting

### February 17

City Hall is closed

### February 25

Precinct Caucuses  
Locations set by political parties

### March 1 - April 30

Road load limits go into effect  
Max 4 tons/axle in Woodland

### March 3, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Presidential Primary Election Day  
Vote at 2860 East Road

### Recycling Dates

December 19

January 2, 16, 30

February 13, 27

## GOOD TO KNOW

It's time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Escape time in case of fire is only about 3 minutes!

Do not plow or shovel snow across or into City streets.

Make arrangements for Christmas tree disposal with your garbage service.

Woodland water/sewer customers may sign up for automatic utility payments by calling the City Clerk. The form can be found at [woodlandmn.org/sewer-water-septic-wells/](http://woodlandmn.org/sewer-water-septic-wells/).



Winter sun in Maplewood Circle after a snowfall.

# Woodland News

December - February | Winter 2019

## Mayor Doak Retires

After nearly 20 years of generous public service, Woodland Mayor Jim Doak has retired. Since 2002, Jim has served as Council Member, board member for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, and, most recently and memorably, as Mayor for nearly three terms. Jim has always been accessible, responsive and thoughtful in response to residents and City issues. His ethical and enthusiastic leadership will be missed.

## Vince Suerth, Mayor Pro Tem

At the November meeting, the City Council appointed Vince Suerth as Mayor from December 1, 2019, through January 1, 2021. Vince and his wife Mary have been Woodland residents since 1983. Vince has served on the Groveland Homeowners Association board for nearly 25 years and was elected to the City Council in 2016.

## New Council Member

As there are only 12 months remaining in Vince Suerth's unexpired term, a special election is not necessary. The position will be filled by Council appointment. Four Woodland residents have indicated interest in the vacant Council seat: Brian Jackson, Hank Zucker, Juan Vasquez, and Ben Hirst. Note that the office of Mayor and two Council Member seats, including this one, will be part of the 2020 election.

## New LMCD Representative

Denny Newell was appointed as Woodland's representative on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) board of directors at the December Council Meeting. We are grateful to Denny for generously volunteering for the three-year term. Many thanks to Chris Rich who served in this role for the past two years.

The LMCD is the only governmental agency representing all of the lakeshore communities. It brings together 14 different cities, 2 counties, and multiple state and local agencies to protect, preserve and enhance Lake Minnetonka's environment, economy and vitality. It is developing a master plan for managing aquatic invasive species and vegetation, has introduced stricter ordinances on marine toilets after last summer's illness outbreaks, and is in the midst of its annual *Save the Lake* fundraising. For more news or to make a contribution, go to [lmcd.org](http://lmcd.org).

## CITY DIRECTORY

### City Hall

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

### City Hall Hours

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

[www.woodlandmn.org](http://www.woodlandmn.org)

### City Clerk

Sara Skalle  
952-358-9936  
sara@woodlandmn.org  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday

### Mayor

Vince Suerth

### 2019 Council Members

Dave Daniels  
John Massie  
Tom Newberry  
*open*

### 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 After Hours

### 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 (LMCD)

Denny Newell, Board Member

### Newsletter Editor

Sara Skalle

## Living with Wildlife

### Wild Turkeys

by Sara Skalle

Doing my last garden tasks in November, I suddenly realized that I wasn't alone. Behind me, just a few feet away, were eight turkey hens softly purring and scratching at the seeds scattered beneath my bird feeders. How they made it through the dry leaves so silently still has me wondering.



Wild toms impress the hens with gorgeous iridescent feathers and ample snoods, wattles and major caruncles.

Turkeys are the heaviest member of the Galliformes order, reaching up to four feet in height and weighing up to 30 pounds. They have a wingspan of four feet but with a wing chord of only about 8 inches, they are reluctant flyers. Hens may opt fly, usually close to the ground and less than .25 mile, but males or toms, which typically weigh twice as much as the hens, will run when threatened, reaching speeds up to 20 mph. Even being bulky birds, turkeys do roost in trees, to avoid ground predators at night or to find shelter in dense conifers when there is harsh weather.

In the spring, you'll see toms puffing up, strutting, and gobbling so frenetically that they look like cartoons — necks stretched, feather sticking straight out. It's the only time of year you'll see hens and toms foraging together. They go their separate ways after mating season. Nests are shallow depressions in the dirt camouflaged by drititus. Usually 10-14 eggs are laid and hatch within 28 days.

Beyond the iconic “gobble,” turkeys have a rich vocabulary of 28 distinct calls, from soft purrs to staccato cutts, clucks, and cackles. The National Wild Turkey Federation has an entertaining collection of turkey calls on their website, [nwtf.org](http://nwtf.org) (keyword: sounds).

Turkeys are native to Minnesota, but their population was nearly zero by 1800. In the early 1970s, when the DNR introduced 29 turkeys in a remote southeast corner of the state, they never imagined they would thrive as they have, especially within cities. Now, they are monitoring population closely and encourage residents not to feed the birds and to shoo them away.



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.

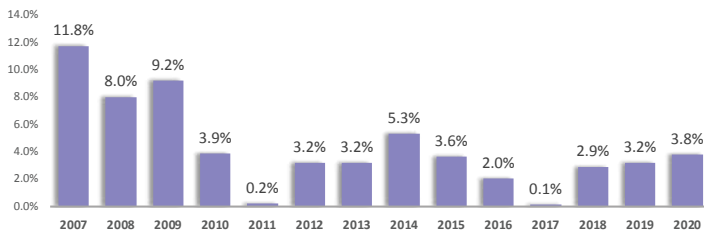
# Woodland Budget 2020

The December Council Meeting included a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. As there were no questions or comments raised, the Council approved the 2020 General Fund budget at \$428,684 and Levy of \$393,724.

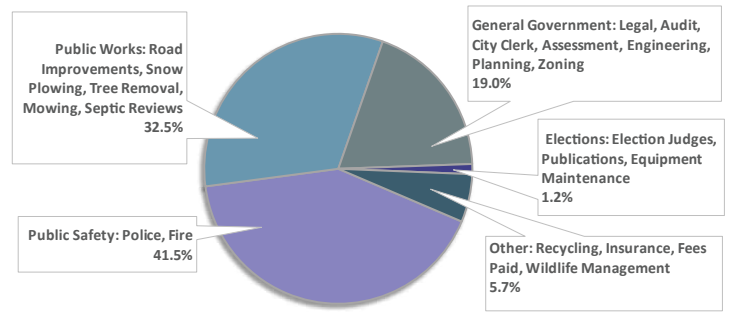
At about one-tenth of a typical Woodland property's total tax bill, the City's levy remains one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Minnesota yet provides almost 92 percent of General Fund revenues.

The Woodland levy increases slightly in 2020. As illustrated in the chart below, the levy rate has stabilized significantly in the past decade since the City established a reserve fund for street improvements. This fund receives regular revenue transfers from the General Fund and is an improvement over imposing levies based on actual road improvement or repair expense, which can vary widely year to year.

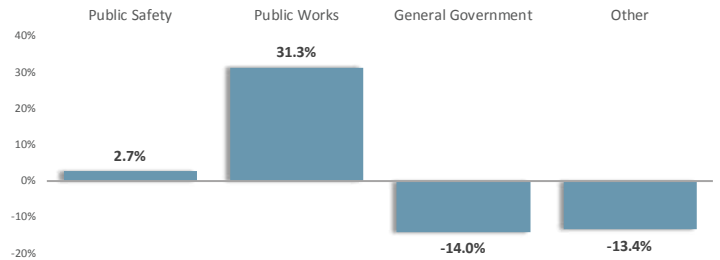
**Woodland Levy History**  
Percentage Change by Year



**2020 General Fund Expenditures**



**2020 General Fund Expenditures 2019 to 2020**



Public Safety is the largest budget expense item in 2020, increasing 2.7 percent over last year. Second is Public Works which has increased 31 percent from last year as the City plans for increased demand for snow plowing and street improvement projects.

General Government and Other expenses have been tightened in 2020. Election expenses are set to cover three election cycles in 2020.

## 2020 Elections

There are three voting days in Woodland in 2020:

- March 3      Presidential Primary
- August 11    Primary Election
- November 3    General Election

**The City of Woodland's polling place is 2860 East Road,** which will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election days. There is a small parking area on East Road across from the polling place. If it is full, park on the east side of East Road.

**Absentee voting** for the Presidential Primary opens on January 17. Come to City Hall or go to [MNvotes.org](http://MNvotes.org) to get your ballot. To obtain permanent absentee status, search "Minnesota Application to Automatically Receive Absentee Ballot Applications."

**Election Judges are needed.** We encourage new residents to apply! If you are interested in being an election judge for the City of Woodland, please email [sara@woodlandmn.org](mailto:sara@woodlandmn.org). Training and election hours are paid and meals are provided.

## City News & Notifications



Thanks to the City's updated website, residents are now able to receive newsletters by email and notifications by text and/or email. Please sign up!

Just go to the Woodland website ([woodlandmn.org](http://woodlandmn.org)), scroll down a bit to the headline "Stay Informed," and enter your information.

Your data is private and protected, used only the chosen notifications.

If you like to stay informed, here are the benefits:

- See what is on the agenda for every Council Meeting.
- Receive this newsletter by email, saving postage costs.
- Be alerted to Special Meetings, Public Hearings and other timely City news.

There is a lot going on in our small city. We appreciate our active residents and would like everyone to be involved. Sign up today or call the Clerk at 952-358-9936 to subscribe.



Woodland City Hall  
20225 Cottagewood Road  
Deephaven, MN 55331

**NEW!**  
Receive links to City  
news and newsletters  
by email or text!  
Sign up at  
woodlandmn.org.



*If the address information on the front is  
incorrect, please call 952-358-9936 or  
email [sara@woodlandmn.org](mailto:sara@woodlandmn.org).*

## Polite Lights

As with all things, show consideration to neighbors and wildlife by not over doing with landscape or holiday lights. Shield flood lights and turn lights off at a reasonable hour so everyone gets a good night's sleep. When in doubt, talk with your neighbor.

## No Parking on City Streets

By ordinance, parking is prohibited on all City streets with the exception of designated parking zones, available for temporary use with 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 police.

## Party Parking

If you are having a large party, your valet company must contact the City Clerk. If you expect more than 15-20 cars, Woodland parking areas cannot be used. Shuttle service from the Deephaven public lot at Chowen's Corner must be set up.

## Fire Safety

Escape time is only about three minutes before being engulfed in smoke when there is a house fire. Today's open floorplans accelerate the spread of fire and modern synthetics burn seven times faster and release toxic fumes. So in this season of candles and lights, take extra care. Make sure smoke detectors are working and your family knows the emergency exit plan if the worst occurs.

If you have any Woodland related questions or concerns, please call the City Clerk at 952-358-9936.