



Woodland News

December - February | Winter 2020-2021

Winter sun in Maplewood Circle after a snowfall.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the significant increase in COVID-19 cases, City Hall is closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. Staff is on duty to serve you. Contact the City Clerk at (952) 358-9936 or sara@woodlandmn.org. Additional contacts may be found on the City website at woodlandmn.org.

Please abide by Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan at MN.gov/covid19. Wear a mask, practice social distancing and stay home to help bring the pandemic under control.

ESSENTIAL DATES

Recycling Dates

December 3, 17, and 31

January 14 and 28

February 11 and 25

(See insert for recycling news)

December 14, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

2021 Levy & Budget Public Hearing

December 25, 26

January 1

City Hall Holidays

January 11, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

City Appointments

2021 Fee Schedule

Lighting Ordinance Public Hearing

January 18

City Hall Holiday

February 8, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

February 11

City Hall Holiday

2020 Municipal Election Results

Take pride that Woodland had a 90 percent voter turnout for the General Election! 201 residents voted early and 127 on Election Day.

A HUGE thank you to our City Hall Staff and Election Judges (Kris Kohls-head judge, Mary Adriaens, Jeanne Webber, Peggy Borstad, and Tracy Severson) for their dedication and responsible handling of the election process. And thanks to Linvill Properties Inc. who provided space in Deephaven Court so we could create a safe polling place in this exceptional election year.

Detailed election results may be found on the website > Government > Election Information.

Congratulations to Mayor Vince Suerth, Council Member Tom Newberry and Juan Vazquez. Council Member Vazquez took the Oath of Office on November 16 to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Brian Jackson.

Ordinance Update

In March, Woodland's 2040 Comprehensive Plan received final approval. To achieve the goals of the plan, some City ordinances needed updating. Changes to 900.19 Tree Removal and Vegetation Maintenance, and 900.24 Construction Site Management have been completed.

A public hearing to update 900.23 Exterior Lighting will be held January 11, 2021 at 7 p.m. Highlights include:

- Exterior lighting plan required for all new construction.
- Design standards for all new construction (*except bump-outs*), and for residents modifying existing lighting.
- Landscape lighting and seasonal string lighting must be off between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. or when people are no longer present, whichever is later. (Image A and B)
- Floodlights and Spotlights will be limited to 15 minutes or when people are no longer present, whichever is later. (Image C)



Please email any comments on the proposed lighting ordinance to Planning Director Pat Smith at pat@cityofdeephaven.org and plan on attending the January 11 Council meeting, if possible. The Zoom link for that meeting can be found at woodlandmn.org.

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall

(*Deephaven and Woodland*)
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55391

City Hall Hours

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.
Closed to walk-in traffic right now

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

2021 Council Members

Dave Daniels
John Massie
Tom Newberry
Juan Vazquez

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

Planning Director

Pat Smith
952-358-9938

Permits

Teresa Pendleton
952-358-9935

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)

Denny Newell, Board Member

Living with Wildlife

Deer

by Sara Skalle

Native to most of North America, the white-tailed deer lives throughout Minnesota in both rural and suburban, even urban, areas. Deer change from reddish brown in spring to soft grey for winter and are easily identified by the white flash of tail when startled. Two- to three-feet tall at the shoulder, bucks can weigh 100-300 pounds and does, 85-130 pounds. Deer eat about 7% of their body weight each day, 1.5 ton of food in a year.



As herbivores, deer in Woodland have a rich diet from our large lots, lush gardens and expansive landscaping. New residents quickly learn to protect young trees and scramble for lists of deer resistant plants. Historically, deer were rare in the northern heavily wooded parts of the state. When settlers cleared the land, the deer population thrived. Their ability to adapt and the lack of natural predators (wolves and cougars) often cause their numbers to exceed their welcome in communities like ours. And tiny deer ticks left by visiting deer present a risk of Lyme disease for pets and residents.

Through the years, the City has made efforts to balance the deer population with our collective love of nature and desire to protect landscaping investments. This year, with the approval of the DNR, the City has partnered with Minnetonka Police to remove deer between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. the first two weeks of December at isolated sites provided by residents. Venison will be delivered to organizations supporting people in need.

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.

News Briefs

- **City Hall is closed** to walk-in traffic due to COVID-19, though staff members are still on duty to serve. Permits are handled by mail and drop-off. Building inspections are being done virtually. Please check the website for more information or contact sara@woodlandmn.org.
- **Republic Services** is Woodland's new recycling partner for 2021-2025. If you require valet service (not bringing receptacles to curbside), please contact sara@woodlandmn.org before December 28 to avoid missed pickups. Valet service will be charged \$10/month, \$120 annually.
- **Polite Lights** Please be considerate of neighbors when installing holiday lights. Walk your property line and see them from your neighbors' perspective and always turn them off at a reasonable time so everyone can get a good night's sleep.

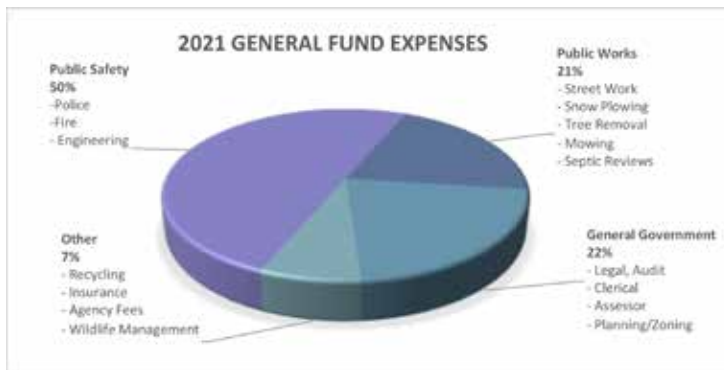
(Continued on page 4)

2021 City Budget

Final discussion and approval of the 2021 City budget will occur at the December 14 Council Meeting. All are welcome to participate in the Public Hearing at 7 p.m. You'll find the Zoom link at woodlandmn.org.

- The total General Fund Budget for 2021 is \$439,486, which is \$10,800 or 2.5% more than 2020.
- The proposed 2021 Levy is \$401,586, which is \$7,862 or 2% more than 2020.

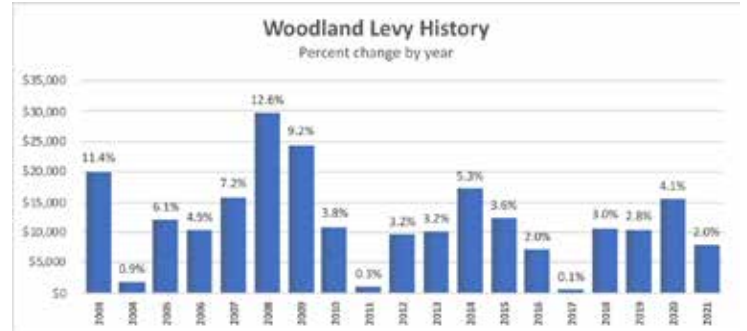
The 2021 budget reflects the City's continuing priority to provide Public Safety (police and fire protection) and Public Works (street cleaning, tree trimming, and plowing) services, the largest portion of the budget.



This year there is an increase in engineering fees due to a significant rise the number and scale of building projects

and plans to rebuild the roads in 2021. The cost of recycling services has also increased, due to the end of an underpriced contract.

Historically, the City of Woodland has provided one of the lowest property tax rates in the state. Over the past 19 years, the annual levy increase has averaged 4.5%.



Since the City is in the midst of a significant redevelopment cycle, last fall the Council adjusted escrow fees so that construction expenses (engineering fees, road maintenance, staff time) would be paid by those projects rather than by the City and its residents.

More information is available at woodlandmn.org. Under Agendas and Minutes (a quick-link on the home page), go to the December 14 Council Meeting. Under Additional Documents, you'll find a more complete handout for the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.

A New Turn for Woodland Streets

For more than a decade, the City's focus regarding street has been repair and maintenance. Realizing that we've reached the point of patching patches, the Council has voted to take advantage of low interest rates, obtain financing and solicit bids to overhaul all of the streets in 2021.

This approach yields significant benefits:

- Residents will enjoy beautiful, smooth streets that will enhance property values.
- Rebuilding all the roads will yield economies of scale and attract reputable contractors.
- Annual costs will stay about the same, having little to no impact on tax rates.

Following a geotechnical study completed this fall, plans are to reclaim (remove and reuse existing bituminous material, laying new pavement to) the majority of Maplewood Road and Maplewood Circle, which carries a high volume of our traffic. With proper maintenance, these new roads will last 20 years or more.



All other Woodland streets will be milled and overlaid (removing 1-2 inches from road surface and laying down new bituminous) to give them a new surface to last 10 years or more.

The annual costs will stay about the same, all the work will be completed next year, and while we enjoy beautiful new streets, costs will be financed over ten years, staying about the same annually. The Council has partnered with Ehlers Public Finance Advisors to help the City obtain financing and meet all statutory requirements.



Woodland City Hall
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331



Sign up for automatic notifications of Council Agendas at woodlandmn.org

- Election results
- Change in recycling services
- 2021 budget and taxes
- Lighting ordinance changes
- New streets in 2021

In this newsletter

News Breifs *(continued from page 2)*

- The **speed limit** on Maplewood and Breezy Point Road has been lowered to 25 m.p.h. to protect pedestrians. Please drive alert and attentive within our City, especially around curves!
- Contact the Planning Director before removing any trees. A **Vegetation Alteration Permit** is required for any extensive clearing or cutting any tree more than 6 inches in diameter.
- A **drainage system** is being installed near the north corner of Maplewood Circle to eliminate the problem of standing water and ice in that area.
- Before installing a heated driveway, please contact the Planning Director about drains to avoid depositing ice on City Streets.
- If you have three or more dogs, by ordinance you must notify City Hall.
- Schedule Christmas tree pickup with your garbage collection service.
- It's easy to sign up for **automatic notifications!** Go to woodlandmn.org and scroll down on the home page. Or go to About Us > Subscribe to Updates where you may chose *what* to receive and *how* to receive it (email or text).
- If you have any questions, call the City at 952-358-9936.