



Budding maple trees in Woodland

Woodland News

April - May | Spring 2021

COVID-19 UPDATE

City Hall hopes to re-open to the public in May or June. Since there is still threat from COVID variants, face coverings are still required inside the building.

Please abide by Minnesota's Stay Safe Plan at [MN.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19). Wear a mask, practice social distancing and get vaccinated to help bring the pandemic under control.

ESSENTIAL DATES

March 1 - May 1

Road Restrictions

4 Tons/axle maximum

Recycling Dates

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 17

July 1, 15, and 29

(See insert for recycling info)

May 3 (week of)

Hydrant Flushing

CenterPoint Energy gasoline replacement work begins

May 10, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

LMCC Presentation

May 31 Memorial Day

City Hall Closed for Holiday

June 14, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

July 5 Independence Day

City Hall Closed for Holiday

Is Woodland Safe?

According to Deephaven Police, Woodland has had four burglaries in the past seven years. All were non-violent. Two were homes that had items taken from counters near unlocked doors. The other two were construction sites that had tools stolen. "Woodland has one of the lowest crime rates in the Twin Cities," says Chief Cory Johnson.

Thefts in Woodland have been opportunistic, the result of unlocked doors and cars and property left out in the open. Chief Johnson encourages residents to lock their doors and cars. Beyond that, he suggests motion-activated lights by garages and walkways, use an alarm system if you have one, and, if going out of town, ask a friend or neighbor to check on the house or call Deephaven Police to set up a house check.

Two recent break-ins were in Deephaven, near but not in Woodland. These, too, were opportunistic and non-violent, and the thieves were apprehended.

#1 Crime: Mail Theft

For the past two decades, the number one crime in Woodland is mail theft, and the identity theft that results from it. If you do not have a locked mailbox, it's time to get one. Learn more at mailboxes.com.

If your neighborhood has multiple mailboxes together, consider upgrading to a locked cluster unit with package lockers. Please situate it off of main roads when possible, for safety. Mayor Suerth has been working with the Hopkins Postmaster on best practices for mailboxes in the City and welcomes the opportunity to facilitate upgrades.

Proposed Lighting Ordinance

The City Council has heard from many residents regarding the proposed lighting ordinance. Thank you! To understand the reason for the ordinance revision, the Council encourages residents to read the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan (found at <https://woodlandmn.org/comprehensive-plan/>).

Watch for notification of the council meeting at which the lighting ordinance will be scheduled for public hearing and Council vote. Public notices are published in the *Sun Sailor* newspaper, on woodlandmn.org/agendas-minutes, and posted at City Hall inside the lower-level public entrance. To receive text or email updates on Council news and agendas, go to woodlandmn.org/subscribe-to-updates.

CITY DIRECTORY

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

City Hall Hours
Closed to public due to COVID

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

Building Permits
Teresa Pendleton
952-358-9935

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)
Denny Newell, Board Member

Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC)
Mike Jilek, Representative

Living with Wildlife

Raccoons

by Sara Skalle

There used to be a big old basswood tree by our house and each spring mama raccoon would pile her kits in the Y of its branches. Those adorable babies were as mesmerized by us as we were with them. That was long before kids and dogs, so I admit those raccoons were spoiled. Nearly every night, our polite little bandits would come knock on the door, knowing I'd have little triangle peanut butter sandwiches for them. (I know better now!)

Winds have long since knocked that basswood down, and kids and dogs naturally created a boundary between the raccoons' space and ours on the property, so it's been decades since those nightly visits. Yet, just the other night, I noticed the neighbor's motion-activated light pop on and spotted a big raccoon skitter from their yard to ours. It made me happy to think the raccoons have established family roots here along with us.

Raccoons are quite intelligent. In tests they have mastered complex locks in 10 or fewer attempts and remember solutions for at least three years. This skill combined with their appetite for just about anything, has often made them unpopular in suburban settings where they can raid garbage cans and scavenge through vegetable gardens. It's wise to cap chimneys and seal attics to deter raccoons from finding lodging there.

In the spring and early summer, raccoons mostly feed on insects and worms and have been known to roll up new sod in order to find them. Acorns and sweet corn are favorites along with other nuts and fruit, though they are also lethal predators of bird and reptile eggs. Raccoons are thought to be the most omnivorous creatures, which explains the midnight garbage raids. Life is short for wild raccoons, most live only a few years, though raccoons in captivity can live up to 20 years. Please drive slowly on Breezy Point Road where raccoons frequently cross from one wetland to another.

For the most part, raccoons are not dangerous, though they will defend their dens and young, or themselves if captured or cornered. It's very rare for a raccoon to have rabies, though they can carry a ringworm parasite that can transfer to humans through contact with fecal matter, so always wash hands after yard or garden work. Distemper is a high cause of mortality for raccoons, but poses no threat to humans or properly immunized pets. Typically, raccoons stay in their den during the day, so it's very easy to avoid contact. If you do cross paths, keep dogs away and let them go their way unthreatened and all will be fine.

As 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.





Street Smarts

We'll be cruising on new, smooth, black streets all throughout Woodland this fall!

Maplewood Road and Maplewood Circle will be completely rebuilt, using the process of reclamation. The existing bituminous will be removed, ground up, mixed with some of the underlying aggregate, and compacted to establish a new, solid base. A healthy layer of fresh bituminous will be placed over the top creating a new road with a life of 20 years or more with proper maintenance.

All other roads will be resurfaced through a mill and overlay process. A portion of the existing pavement will be milled off and a new bituminous surface will be laid down. The only exception will be Breezy Point Road which was done last summer.

Recycling Update

Please call the City Clerk right away at 952-358-9936 if you:

- Still have a Waste Management (green and yellow) recycling bin.
- Need a second or larger Republic (blue) recycling bin.
- Were missed on a regular pickup day.

We apologize for any inconvenience during the transition to Republic Services. Due to continuing errors, Republic has recently assigned a more experienced driver to Woodland. We anticipate smooth, reliable service once the newly-assigned driver has learned the route.

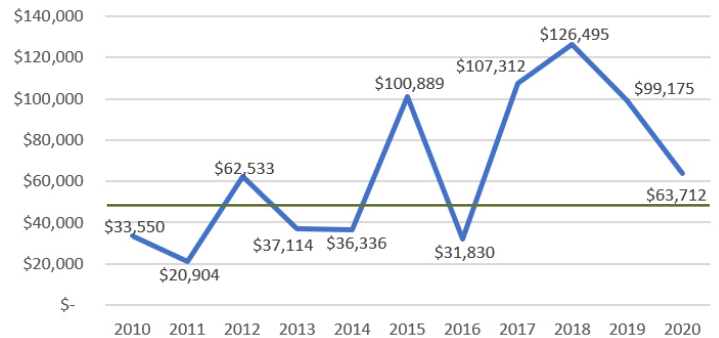
Please read and keep the recycling insert included in this newsletter as reference. "Aspirational recycling" does more harm to the environment by spoiling whole batches that then end up in landfills.

Recycle only what can be recycled.

The outcome will be a City road system that will enhance property values and lift spirits. The roads will still need annual preventative maintenance to extend the pavement life, however, it will be a small investment until more significant work is needed in about 2040.

This project is possible thanks to the street smarts of City Engineer Dave Martini who suggested the idea of financing, and the Mayor and Council who quickly recognized the power of the idea.

Street Repair Expenditures
2010-2020

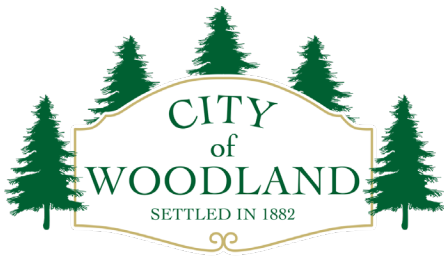


In a nutshell, the economics are:

- Do all street improvements at one time.
- Finance with \$100,000 from the Street Improvement Fund and a 10-year bond. The City was fortunate to obtain both low interest rates and surprisingly competitive bids.
- The estimated annual debt payment of \$49,000 is marked on the chart above as a green line and is less than the average annual expense for road patching the past 10 years.
- Once the bond is paid off, the City potentially has another 10 years to mass revenue for the next rebuilding of streets.

At this point, work is slated to begin in June and be completed by August. More specifics will be posted on the website as they are known. (Another great reason to subscribe to City updates!) There will undoubtedly be some inconvenience, but with good planning and traffic control it should be manageable. Maybe even worth it to have smooth, solid, good-looking streets for years to come.

In addition, beginning in May, CenterPoint Energy will be replacing 20,000 feet of main gas lines in the City, a major infrastructure improvement. Residents along the work area will receive door hangers with more specific information and contact information for someone who can answer questions. While this is a significant project, the impact is minimal. CenterPoint uses directional drilling to install the piping so there is very little disturbance to landscaping. Any impact will be restored by CenterPoint before the end of the project.



Woodland City Hall
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331



News Breifs

Leave Garden Debris

Many of your garden helpers overwinter in leaf debris and do not emerge until temperatures are higher than 50-degrees for seven consecutive days. The spectacular luna and cecropia moth cocoons are indistinguishable from dead leaves. Native bees hunker down in plant stems and just under the soil, so cutting them back or mulching too soon will keep them from emerging. Be patient so you don't unintentionally harm these important pollinators.

Tree Ordinance

It is unlawful to cut any tree with a diameter greater than six inches in Woodland. Tree service companies must also be licensed by the City. A current list of licensed companies can

be found on the website under *Residents > Protecting Lakes & Trees*. It's up to each resident to hire only licensed firms, or have them get licensed before work begins. Before starting a landscape project, check Ordinance 900.19 on the website (*Government > Ordinances*), call the Planning Director with any questions, and get a Vegetation Alteration Permit (also found on the website).

Pedestrian Safety

In Woodland, vehicle speeds greater than 25 m.p.h. risk citation and endanger wildlife and pedestrians. **Slow down on Breezy Point and Maplewood Roads.** Woodland roads are narrow and winding and walking is a favorite recreation of most City residents. Many residents also cross the road to their mailboxes. Please take care, teach young drivers, and practice alert and respectful driving within Woodland.