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The Medina Message

A bi-monthly publication from the City of Medina

October is Energy Awareness Month

By Carmen Carruthers, Outreach Director for the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota and Medina Resident

October was first declared Energy Awareness Month by President George H. W. Bush. While the energy sector has changed significantly since that time, energy efficiency remains the most effective way to reduce energy costs and environmental impacts. Minnesotans can celebrate Energy Awareness Month by taking steps to become more energy efficient. Here are some easy fall energy saving tips to get started:



- ▶ **Adjust your thermostat.** The Department of Energy recommends setting the temperature at 68 degrees when you are awake and turning it down about 10 degrees while you are away or asleep.
- ▶ **Service your furnace** to make sure it runs efficiently as the weather starts to cool down.
- ▶ **Take advantage of the sun.** Open up your curtains and blinds throughout the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home.
- ▶ **Check windows and doors** for leaks and seal leaks before the cold weather hits.
- ▶ **Get an energy audit.** Contact your local utility about discounted energy audits and get professional advice about opportunities to improve the efficiency of your home.

For additional ideas or free personal consultation, contact the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota, a non-profit organization based in St. Paul. Visit www.cubminnesota.org, email Carmen at carmenc@cubminnesota.org or call 651-300-4701.

2018 Budget Summary with 3.0 Percent Tax Rate Decrease

The preliminary budget and property tax levy for 2018 was presented to the public and Medina City Council at the September 19th Council meeting.

The proposed 2018 tax levy is \$3,904,817 with a tax levy rate of 21.594%. The preliminary estimates show the City's property tax rate would decrease from 22.269% in pay 2017 to 21.594% in pay 2018, or a 3.0% decrease in the rate.

The proposed budget includes a 3.0% increase to the General Fund property tax levy for 2018. The General Fund Budget is proposed at \$4,426,643. The \$116,902 proposed increase will be utilized for the general maintenance and operations for the Public Works and Police facility, city hall, parks, City roads, increased fire services expenditures, increased insurance costs, and a 3% cost of living increase for staff. The General Fund budget provides for all basic City services and has remained steady over the last decade. The final 2018 budget approval is scheduled for the December 5, 2017 City Council meeting.

CITY HALL

2052 County Road 24
Medina, MN 55340
p: 763-473-4643
f: 763-473-9359
e: city@medinamn.gov

City Hall Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

600 Clydesdale Trail
Medina, MN 55340
p: 763-473-9209
f: 763-473-8858
e: police@medinamn.gov

Police Department Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mayor

Bob Mitchell 763-473-1042

City Council

Jeff Pederson 612-916-6448
John Anderson 612-618-5702
Kathleen Martin 612-344-1111
Lorie Cousineau 612-251-3244

City Council Meetings

First & third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Park Commission Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Newsletter Editor

Jodi Gallup
Assistant City Administrator

Winter Parking Regulations

The Medina Police Department will soon be enforcing seasonal parking restrictions. According to Medina City Code 340.05 Seasonal Parking Restriction, from November 1 to March 31 inclusive, no person shall park or permit any motor vehicle to stand on any street, highway or alley for all or any part of the period from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The police enforce this ordinance to keep the streets clear for snow plowing. If you have any question in reference to the parking ordinance, please call the police department at 763-473-9209.

City Council Agendas & Minutes Email Notifications

Stay informed on what is happening at upcoming City Council meetings. The City emails copies of Council agendas and minutes at no cost to residents. If you would like to be added to the regular email notification list, email jodi.gallup@medinamn.gov to sign up.



City Meeting Calendar

October

- 3rd Tues—City Council 7 pm
- 10th Tues—Planning Commission 7 pm
- 17th Tues—City Council Work Session 6 pm
- 17th Tues—City Council 7 pm
- 18th Wed—Park Commission 7 pm

November

- 8th Wed—City Council 7 pm
- 10th Fri—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- 14th Tues—Planning Commission 7 pm
- 15th Wed—Park Commission 7 pm
- 21st Tues—City Council Work Session 6 pm
- 21st Tues—City Council 7 pm
- 23rd Thurs—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- 24th Fri—City Offices Closed (Holiday)

All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise noted.
Meeting agendas on website when available.

Planning Department

Land Use Applications Under Review

The following land projects are currently under review by the City. For more information on one of the projects, or for an update on the review schedule, please visit <http://medinamn.us/citygov/departments/planning-zoning/> or contact the Planning Department at (763) 473-4643, ext. 1.

Weston Woods PUD Concept Plan – 1952 Chippewa Road – Mark of Excellence Homes has requested review of a PUD concept plan for the development of 94 twinhomes on 80 acres (~30 buildable) east of Mohawk Drive, and north of Chippewa Road. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on September 12 and provided comments. The Park Commission review it on September 20, and the City Council is scheduled to review on October 3 or October 17.

Mark of Excellence Comprehensive Plan Amendment and PUD Concept Plan – Mark of Excellence Homes has also requested a comprehensive plan amendment to change the future land use of property located east of Mohawk Drive and north of Highway 55 to Low Density Residential for a 48-lot single family subdivision to include a 7.5 acre city park. The subject properties are PIDs 03-118-23-42-0001, 03-118-23-43-0005, and 03-118-23-41-0001. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing at the October 10 meeting and the City Council is tentatively scheduled to review on October 17 or November 8.

Zoning Code Amendment – Ground-mounted Solar Equipment – The JEGM Revocable Trust has requested that the City consider amending its zoning code to increase the maximum footprint of ground mounted solar panels permitted on a rural property from 2,500 square feet to 4,000 square feet. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the proposed amendment and recommended approval. The City Council is scheduled to review the ordinance at their October 3, 2017 meeting.



JEGM Revocable Trust CUP – 2705 Willow Drive – The JEGM Revocable Trust has also requested a conditional use permit (CUP) for installation of ground-mounted solar equipment with a footprint of 3,860 square feet, as well as for construction of a 2,304 square foot greenhouse and a 360 square foot warming/storage shed. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on CUP and recommended approval. The City Council is scheduled to review the request at their October 3, 2017 meeting.

City Prepares to Submit 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Over the past two years, the City has been working on updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan guides the future of the City, including the location and types of growth and development in the City. The Plan also advises future policy and investments in infrastructure and services such as transportation, parks, trails, recreation and water resources. Additional information on the draft Plan is available for you to review at <http://medinamn.us/2040compplan/>.

The process to update the Plan has included substantial public input at five community meetings, two business forums, thirteen Steering Committee meetings, various Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and through an online forum.

The City is required to submit the draft Plan for review and comments by affected jurisdictions such as school districts, Hennepin County, the Department of Transportation and neighboring cities. These comments are due in October.

The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. to review these comments and potentially finalize the draft Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be reviewed by the City Council at their November 8 and November 21 meetings. After the Council approves the Plan, it is required to be approved by the Metropolitan Council before it can be put into effect.

The City anticipates the updated Comprehensive Plan being in effect in early 2018. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the process!

City Discusses Regulations Related to Woodlake Landfill

The City is currently discussing regulations related to the Woodlake Landfill, located north of Hamel Road and west of Tomahawk Drive. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) operates the landfill as part of its Closed Landfill Program. Minnesota state law requires that the local municipality enact land use and zoning regulations which are consistent with the Closed Landfill Use Plan established by the MPCA for the landfill.

The ordinance proposes to rezone Woodlake Landfill to a new zoning district called Closed Landfill-Restricted. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance at the August 8 and September 12 meetings and is scheduled to continue the hearing at the October 10, 2017 meeting. The City Council is tentatively scheduled to review on November 8.

Medina Celebration Day Recap



The City of Medina would like to thank all the contributors, exhibitors, volunteers and committee members who were involved in Medina Celebration Day on Saturday, September 16th, at Hamel Legion Park. This event could not have happened without your support! The afternoon was filled with many great activities for young and old alike, including a business expo, bingo, pumpkin decorating, kids games, face painters, city vehicles, North Star Search and Rescue dogs and Drone demonstrations, as well as another spectacular fireworks display sponsored by area businesses and residents.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO THE FOLLOWING MEDINA BUSINESSES AND VOLUNTEERS:

3121 Pizza
9 Rounds
Adams Pest Control
Niharika Bhavsar
Boy Scout Troop 570
Buzzella Massage
Complete Eye Care of Medina
Contemporary Images
Countryside Café/Peg's Catering
Dobo's (Danny's Catering)
DoJo Karate
Edward Jones
Farmers State Bank of Hamel
Fortin Chiropractic Clinic
Fortin Consulting
Friends of Wolfsfeld Woods
Goddard School
Robert Green Family
Gregor's Farm & Greenhouse
Tom Hamel Family
Hamel Fire Department
Hamel Lions Club
Highway 55 Rental & Sales
Intercomp
John Day Company
Kalla Lily Salon and Spa
KD Landscape
Kubitz Educational Services
Lake Independence Citizens Association
Leonard Leuer
Lineage Outfitters

Mario Fabrizio
Medina Entertainment Center
Medina Police Department
Medina Public Works Department
My Town Fitness
North Star Search & Rescue
OAK Eatery
Pilates Advantage
Scherer Pumpkin Patch
Suzie Sween
Target
Thrivent Financial
Uptown Hamel Business Group
Urban Even Salon and Boutique

Celebration Day Committee:

Anne Klaers
Mario Fabrizio
Carrie Leadens
Chris Pederson
Ed Belland
Melissa Burns
Janet White
Linda Lane
Lorie Cousineau
Molly O'Brien Hasek
Rick Traut



Environment

What is Buckthorn & Why is it Harmful?

Common and glossy buckthorn are non-native, invasive shrubs, and are classified as Restricted Noxious Weeds. The sale, transportation or movement of living common or glossy buckthorn plants is prohibited statewide by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Buckthorn is hardy—it tolerates shade, full-sun, drought, and bad soil. As a result, it quickly moves from well-kept yards to other areas. Buckthorn is harmful because:

- ▶ Its lush, impenetrable thicket out-competes native plants for light, moisture and nutrients.
- ▶ Wildlife and song bird habitat is destroyed.
- ▶ The messy fruit stains cars, decks, and concrete.
- ▶ No natural insects and plant disease controls exist to contain Buckthorn's spread.
- ▶ Buckthorn contribute to erosion by shading out other plants.
- ▶ The plant is host to crop pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid.



If you spot Buckthorn in your yard, you can get rid of it by following these steps:

1. Pull seedlings by hand.
2. Pull small trees and shrubs with a manually-operated tool that clamps onto a stem and acts as a lever to uproot the plant.
3. Cut Buckthorn larger than three inches with a handsaw as close to the ground as possible. Then either dig out the stump (call Gopher State One before you dig) or use the herbicide Ortho Brush-B-Gon (8% Triclopyr) on the stump.
4. Dispose of all branches in yard waste service.



More information on Buckthorn and how to identify it can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>.

Eliminating Invasive Plants including Buckthorn with Goats

Communities across Minnesota and the country have found a natural alternative to removing invasive plants such as Buckthorn by releasing Buckthorn-eating goats. Goats tend to eat the highest plant they can reach first and then work down, which makes them particularly good at eating Buckthorn. Goats have special enzymes in their gut, which allows them to eat other invasive plants that would be poisonous to other animals. As goats eat down the invasive plants, they kill the plant's water source, which causes the plants to wither and die.

Medina residents recently hired Midwest Goat Mitigation out of Anoka County to provide Buckthorn-eating services on their property. The company sets up a low pulse electric mesh netting around the targeted area to contain the trained goats. This could be large areas or small backyard residential areas. It usually takes about 25 goats to feed on a half acre parcel (depending on the intensity of brush) over the course of three to four days to completely eat down all the invasive plants. If you are interested in what it would cost on your property, call Thom at 612-423-3991 for an estimate or you can find other companies that offer these same services online.



Public Safety & Public Works

Fire Department Open Houses

Medina is served by four volunteer fire departments. Hamel Fire covers the northeastern area, Loretto Fire covers the north-western area, Long Lake Fire covers the southeast area and Maple Plain Fire covers the southwest quadrant of the City. All four fire departments will be hosting open houses in October, where residents are invited to come meet your firefighters, participate in family fun activities, enjoy some food, and learn about fire prevention tips.

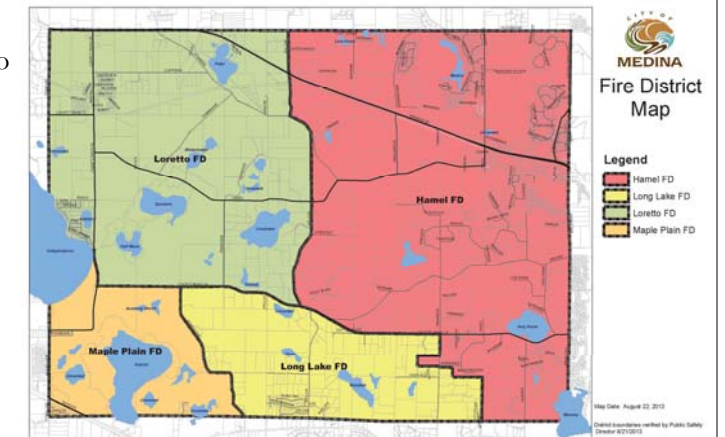
Long Lake Fire Department – Monday, October 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Station #1, 340 North Willow Drive, Long Lake, MN

Hamel Fire Department – Saturday, October 7th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 92 Hamel Road, Hamel, MN

Maple Plain Fire Department – Saturday, October 7th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Steak Fry from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1645 Pioneer Avenue, Maple Plain, MN

Loretto Fire Department – Saturday, October 14th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 259 Medina Street, Loretto, MN

Find out which fire department serves your house and get their contact information on the City of Medina's website at: <http://medinamn.us/citygov/departments/volunteer-fire/>.



Things to Remember as Winter Approaches

- ▶ Shore up your fall projects before winter, so spring rains will not cause erosion. The City has a compost/brush site located behind City Hall off County Road 24, which is free for residents. Leaves, grass clippings, and brush are all welcome. Please check the website below for days and times.
- ▶ REMEMBER: City ordinance prohibits parking on any public street from November 1 through March 31 during the hours of 1:00 AM – 6:00 AM. If at all possible, the City plow crew would also appreciate having no vehicles parked on City streets when snowfall occurs during the daytime.
- ▶ Please check your mailbox for sturdiness and get repaired as needed, as the City is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by snow being pushed off the roads.
- ▶ To limit damage to sod, it is advised to place a marker along curb lines; however, metal poles are strictly prohibited within the City right-of-way.
- ▶ Be cautious of what you use and the amount you apply for your own personal ice control, as it will eventually end up in the storm sewer and out to our lakes and rivers.
- ▶ It is the responsibility of property owners to remove snow and ice on their own sidewalks. However, please use ice control sparingly, because after it enters the storm drain it will eventually end up in local lakes and rivers.
- ▶ The City adopted a Snow Plowing-Ice Control Policy, which can be seen in its entirety on the City website at <http://medinamn.us/citygov/departments/public-works-dept/#SnowPolicy>.

Halloween Safety Tips

With Halloween quickly approaching, here are a few safety tips when trick-or-treating:

- ▶ Make sure your child's costume is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- ▶ Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and if possible, choose light colors. Masks often obstruct a child's vision; try to avoid masks and use face paint and makeup.
- ▶ Carry glow sticks or flashlights and a cell phone if possible.
- ▶ Never let your child trick-or-treat alone. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. If children are old enough, make sure they stay with a group and only go in well-lit neighborhoods they are familiar with.
- ▶ When crossing streets, make sure to cross as a group. Never cross between parked cars.
- ▶ Only go to homes with a porch light.
- ▶ Use the sidewalk if possible.
- ▶ Do not enter a car or home for a treat.



Have fun and remain safe. If you see anything suspicious, call 9-1-1 immediately.