



CITY OF GREENWOOD NEWS

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2008

GREENWOOD CITY HALL 20225 COTTAGEWOOD ROAD

DEEPHAVEN, MN 55331

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CITY HALL IS OPEN MONDAY—THURSDAY 8:00-4:30 #952-474-6633

2009 City Budget

At the September 2, City Council meeting, the proposed levy of \$690,957 was approved by a 3-1 vote. The proposed levy is a 7.6% increase over 2008. The proposed budget of \$789,735 increased only .12% over the 2008 budget.

Learn how the Council determines how much money is needed to run the City by attending Greenwood's Truth in Taxation meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The final levy and budget will not be adopted until the Tuesday, Dec. 17, subsequent meeting.

City Hall Office Closings:

November 11—Veteran's Day
November 12 & 13—Clerk's Vacation
November 27—Thanksgiving Day
December 25—Christmas Day
January 1—New Year's Day

Remember, City Hall is not open on Friday.

Heavy Voter Turnout Expected November 4!

It's a big election for Greenwood, too. The City has 80% of its Council seats available this year. Filing for City Office has closed and here's who's running for office:

Mayor (2 year term): Bob Quam and Deb Kind

Council (special 2 year term to fill a vacancy): Thomas M. Fletcher

Council (4 year term, two seats available): William Rose, H. Kelsey Page, and Lake Bechtell.

Absentee ballots will be available on Friday, October 3rd if you will be out of the City on Election Day. Don't forget to register to vote! You may register at the polls on Election Day with authorized proof of residence. You will need to re-register if you've had a name change, moved to a different address within Greenwood, or moved to Greenwood and have lived in Minnesota at least 20 days.

City Hall will be open on Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. for absentee voting and until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3.

At times there will be lines of people waiting to vote. Please be patient. We have a small polling place and our election judges can process only a few voters at a time.

Vote at the Old Log Theater from 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
On Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Visit the Election Center at the Minnesota Secretary of State's web site www.sos.state.mn.us for more election information.

Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.

Emily Bronte

Fire Prevention Open House and Safety Fair Thursday, October 9, 2008

From 6:00—8:00 p.m. 24100 Smithtown Road in Shorewood at the Excelsior Fire District Building. Meet the Fire Chief, Sparky and firefighters; have your picture taken with them. Free food and beverages. Learn how to prevent fires and what to do in case of a fire. Look at the cool displays. This is a great family event.

For City information, visit the web site:

www.cityofgreenwoodmn.com

Mayor's Corner

I can't believe summer is almost over! I just wrote a Mayor's Corner welcoming summer. What happened? Well, let me talk about some things that are much more cheery and exciting like trash/recycling, Massing, roads and Police.

After uncountable months of dedicated and terrific work by the Planning Commission, the **Massing** Ordinance was returned to the City Council which approved it at the September meeting. One issue regarding maximum height will be revisited immediately but we didn't want to wait for that one point to get the ordinance on the books. I think the final product is very good for Greenwood and better than any other city's version in this area. I believe it is a user-friendly ordinance that achieves the goals of controlling home size relative to lot size without negatively impacting values. That was not easy to do! Contact the city web site for viewing if you are so inclined.

The **Police** issue I addressed in the last Newsletter focused on the need for an additional officer as we often have only one on duty. All cities approved the plan except Shorewood. The plan would have cost each Shorewood resident \$7.39 in 2010 when the officer would have been fully funded, but their Council felt that was too expensive. I have always felt that providing for the public's safety was the Council's highest priority. It doesn't appear to be Shorewood's.

The Council awarded the new city-wide **Recycling** contract to Vintage Waste. Waste Management was our contractor for years but Vintage offered a better deal for small trucks with weekly pickup. Trash hauling permits have already been issued to several companies for 2009 so the Council next year will address the issue of contracting with a single hauler in order to try to reduce the size and number of trash trucks coming through the city to further save wear and tear on our roads.

Eliminating the cause of **road** deterioration paves the way to the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of road maintenance and we can get ahead of the curve for a change. Pardon the puns. Years and years of negative spiraling road conditions are being turned around with this simple action of eliminating large trucks. It's a wonderment it took so long to figure this out. Sometimes the simplest solutions are the most obscure.

Finally, elections are here again and the City Council spots are important choices as well as the national. "All government is local" is not a meaningless quote. Please take the time to learn about our candidates and how they may serve the city if elected. Watch for the debates and fliers. If they don't find you at home as they canvass your neighborhood door-to-door, call them to discuss the issues that concern you. Then, we'll all be better off through the process.

I'll be sending out one final Mayor's Corner in December, so until then, if you have any questions, concerns or positive input, I can be reached at bnewman@mchsi.com or 952-401-6332. Have a great fall season.

Swiffers Sheets Wreak Havoc in City Septic System!! Are You to Blame?

A few weeks ago, Deephaven Public Works responded to an alarm at two separate Greenwood lift stations. Two pumps had been clogged with Swiffer cleaning sheets. The cost to replace those pumps is **\$9,000**. When you add in the cost for labor, on a Sunday, you have a pretty expensive incident that should have been avoided.

The City sewers are designed to dispose of TWO and ONLY two very specific things: human waste and toilet paper. Many household and cosmetic items are disposable, but that does NOT mean they are flushable! Please alert your housekeepers, family and neighbors to this issue. Otherwise, with each pump replacement, the City is literally flushing money down the toilet!

Reminder of City Ordinances...

Before you cut, before you dig, before you build, before you demolish, please call Gus Karpas. Gus is Greenwood's zoning and planning coordinator and he is available to answer any questions you have on building, tree cutting, landscaping, and remodeling plans. The City has many ordinances that deal with these issues; make sure you comply with them.

Council Raises Recycling Fees

Starting October 1, 2008, Greenwood residents will pay an additional \$1.80 per quarter to cover the increase in City recycling fees. You will see the increase in your City utility bill that will arrive the end of December.