



CITY OF GREENWOOD NEWS

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2008

GREENWOOD CITY HALL 20225 COTTAGEWOOD ROAD

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

E-Waste Day, July 12

Make an easy trip over to Greenwood City Hall and dispose of your old computer/electronics. The drop-off site is open from 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

You will be asked to show either a Greenwood utility bill or your driver's license as proof of residency. There is a fee for each item you drop off. Check the City website for a complete list of accepted electronics.
www.cityofgreenwoodmn.com

The City still needs election judges! Heavy voter turn-out is expected and your help is needed. An application is on the City website or call City Hall for details.

80% of Council Seats Up For Grabs!

2008 is a big election year for not only our nation, but for the City of Greenwood as well. With the mid-term resignation of Councilmember Kelly Scharf, the City will have vacancies in 4 of the 5 Council seats.

The two-year mayor's seat, held by Bob Newman, two four-year Council seats, held by Jeff Sagal and Doug Hill, and one two-year Council seat, being vacated by Scharf, will be on the ballot in November.

Filing for these positions begins Tuesday, August 26, and closes on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. There is a filing fee of \$2 to run for City office.

City officials provide leadership, promote new ideas and suggest new programs to improve the community and its neighboring South Lake communities.

Call City Hall for more information; or better yet, call one of the current City Councilmembers and learn what being a member of the Greenwood City Council entails.

This is *your* chance to have a voice in Greenwood's future.

A little rebellion now and then is a good thing. Thomas Jefferson

Vote for Food

A food drive for the Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA) will take place during Greenwood's primary election on Tuesday, September 9.

A bin, manned by ICA volunteers, will be placed outside the Old Log Theater as the deposit site for your non-perishable food items. The ICA Food Shelf needs your donations as the demand for its resources is great!

Please donate to this worthy cause and give as much as you can! Visit www.icafoodshelf.org to make an on-line cash donation through PayPal.

City 4th of July Parade

Yes, there WILL be a parade in Greenwood this 4th of July. Same time and same place as other years; it begins at 10:00 a.m. at the City Park at Meadville and Covington.

Treats will be available and be sure to dress in red, white and blue!



Thanks to
Mary Jo Newman for
coordinating this year's
parade!

Excelsior Fire District Relief Association Dance

There will be fun for kids of all ages at the EFD Relief Association Dance. Jonah and the Whales will be appearing for a return engagement providing great dance music. Get together with other South Lake residents on Friday, July 18th and enjoy food, dancing and other activities.

Visit the EFD website at www.excelsiorfire.org for details.

Mayor's Corner, June, 2008

Hello again! Finally, it's summer with weather to show for it! As such, it's time to update you on the hottest issues in our little village.

The Senior/Community Center: We are still trying to find a suitable solution. Some day soon!

Police: With the new building and funding issues behind us, we can finally do some serious evaluating and long term planning. A Strategic Planning Group was formed to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the SLMPD. We determined that the SLMPD was the lowest staffed department in the entire Lake Minnetonka area in terms of officers per 1000 residents. Other valuable information lead us to the inescapable conclusion that adding two patrol officers over the next five years is appropriate for our residents' and officers' safety. We need to protect those who protect us! All four City Councils must approve this plan for it to take effect. So far, Greenwood and Excelsior have.

Massing: The Planning Commission received this Ordinance back for refinement and they have done that. Several homes have been measured and graphed. It will soon be in the hands of the Council again for exact definition of the numerical guideline. The final product will be much more liberal and simpler to use than the initial plan.

LMCD Budget: After the Minnesota Legislature limited budgets of cities over 2500 population to 3.9% levy increases (with a few exceptions like hiring more police) the LMCD revised their initial 2009 budget with an 8.7% increase to a new one with an 18.4% increase. The primary reason: adding substantial funds for Milfoil work to the budget rather than using the "Save the Lake Fund" which was created for that very purpose! Go figure!! Unbelievably, it initially had support from a majority of the Commissioners. I informed our Rep., Kelsey Page, who shared my view, that he should voice the strongest possible opposition. He was quite willing, acknowledging there are no guarantees with that group!

Roads: With the cost of oil skyrocketing, our road budget got shot in a hurry. We are repaving Weeks Rd., which had been postponed for a year and was nearly impassable. We are seal coating some streets and patching many other spots. I requested our engineer and Councilmember Quam (our Road Assignee) to reevaluate the seal coating job done on Minnetonka Blvd. last year. They agreed it was ineffective and the contractor has agreed to redo it. Overall, our streets have been slowly deteriorating over the years with frustration growing even faster with the cost to keep up. In a recent Council Meeting, I asked our City Engineer what really causes the breakdown. He said it's not cars. It is heavy trucks and the weather. We can't do much about the weather, but,...

Trash/Recycling: We need to renew or change our Recycling contract with Waste Management. They have competition from Vintage. Issues are cost, bin size, and truck size. Big, three-axle trucks weigh 32,000 #s empty with the concentration of their weight on the two tandem rear axles and are exempt from restrictions even between March and May. Our roads are built to handle 6000 #s per axle. Truck weight instantly became **the** factor. We have several trash haulers in Greenwood. I support moving to a city-wide contract for trash as we have with recycling and using a company or companies that use smaller, lighter trucks that meet our load limits. You would forfeit your ability to choose your own hauler but the saving of wear and tear on our roads and the resultant cost of upkeep and taxes to pay for that makes your sacrifice of that freedom pale in comparison.

As always, if you want to express your agreement, disagreement, or something else; I am reachable at bnewman@mchsi.com or 401-6332.

Election and City Council News

As everyone knows, this is an election year and so it is in Greenwood as well. We are in for a few changes.

Kelly Scharf has resigned to follow her husband to Colorado where he has begun a new job. Kelly was really coming into to her own as a Council member and she will be missed.

Three other terms are expiring, too. Jeff Sagal's four-year Councilmember term and Doug Hill's replacement term for Matt Saunders' Councilmember terms are up. The Mayor's term is always two years so my position is open also.

Clearly we will need a replacement for Kelly. When a position is vacated with less than two years remaining, the Council may appoint a replacement through the end of that term. If more than two years remain, the position must be filled by open election. So, at the next election in November, you will find opportunities to vote for four members of the Council: a two-year Council position, two four-year Council positions and the Mayor's two-year position.

I will not speculate here regarding Jeff's or Doug's intentions.

As for me, I have enjoyed what will be four years serving the City of Greenwood as your Mayor, but for several personal reasons, I have decided **not** to run for re-election. It has been a very interesting, educational and rewarding experience and I encourage anyone with an interest in community affairs to consider giving back to their community. We need capable and willing citizens to step up and lead. I am happy to make myself available to discuss these opportunities with you.

Filing details are on the other side of this newsletter.