



Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 3, Issue 3

Autumn 2010 UPCOMING

September 2010

25 9-11 a.m., Pet Fair, Lions Park

October 2010

2 1-4 p.m., Fire Department Open House, 2700 Vierling Dr. E.

3-9 Fire Prevention Week

22 8:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Senior Expo, Shakopee High School

30 9 a.m., Jack o'Lantern 5K & Kids Pumpkin Run, Community Center
5:30-8:30 p.m., Scary Skate and Spooky Family Fun Night, Community Center

November 2010

1 Winter Parking Regulations begin

2 General Election, polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

11 Veterans Day, City Offices Closed, Community Center Open

25-26 Thanksgiving, City Offices and Community Center Closed

Mission Statement

The Mission of the City of Shakopee is to provide the opportunity to live, work and play in a community with a proud past, promising future, and small-town atmosphere within a metropolitan setting.

Voters to Consider Community Center Improvements

On Aug. 17, the Shakopee City Council approved action to ask voters at the Nov. 2 General Election to consider the sale of bonds to fund improvements to the Community Center.

The question for voters to decide, entitled "Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for Improvements to Community Center" will be:

"Shall the City of Shakopee be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$8,010,000 to provide funds for constructing and equipping improvements to and expansion of its community center? YES NO"

The proposed facility improvements would include:

- *Senior Center.* This would provide a new space designated for older active adults to meet, socialize and hold activities, and would include a lounge, two meeting/classrooms and restrooms.
- *Second Floor to Fitness Areas.* The addition would provide expanded programming and aerobics space and a location for exercise equipment, which currently has no permanent space in the lower level hallway and storage room.
- *Second Sheet of Ice.* This would allow for a full-size sheet with bleacher seating for 200 people.

Budget and Homeowner Impact

The total cost for the improvements in the bond referendum would be \$8.01 million (\$7.855 million for the actual improvements, and \$155,000 for bond issuance costs). Of this, \$1,985,500 would fund the senior center and fitness area improvements, and \$5,870,000 would be for the second sheet of ice. Operating costs for the Community Center would increase by an estimated \$315,000 per year. Those costs include operating expenses and building depreciation (rental) added as a result of the facility improvements.

Assuming that the City is able to issue tax-exempt bonds, the annual additional tax levy increase for bond repayment and the operational costs would total \$1.007 million annually, which includes debt repayment, building depreciation, and additional operation and maintenance costs. Shakopee homeowners could expect to pay the following estimated additional amounts per year for the facility additions and operations:

Home Value	Annual Tax Increase
\$150,000	\$ 37
\$250,000	\$ 62
\$500,000	\$123

The tax levy would begin in 2012 and would continue for 20 years. The above figures assume tax-exempt bonds are sold.

More Information

The City's website contains additional information about the referendum, including ballot language, consultant presentations and reports, design plans, and other correspondence. Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us for more information.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 3-9, 2010

It's 3 a.m., and you're awakened by an incessant "chirp" from the smoke alarm. You remove the battery, planning to replace it the next day, and forget. Now, you and your family are at risk for becoming some of the almost 3,000 people who die in a home fire each year. In about two-thirds of those deadly fires, the homes had no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms.

During Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9, 2010, the Shakopee Fire Department wants to remind residents that smoke alarms are a sound you can live with. In fact, smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in half. To increase your safety, be sure to change the smoke alarm batteries at least annually, replace smoke alarms every 10 years and consider installing hard-wired alarms that are interconnected.

Throughout October, the Fire Department will visit area elementary students to share fire safety tips. Residents also are invited to learn more about the Fire Department at the annual Open House, on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. at 2700 Vierling Dr. E. Fire Prevention Week wraps up with the Firefighters Benefit Dance on Friday, Oct. 8.

To learn more about fire safety or upcoming events, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fire_tips.cfm or call 952-233-9570.

Election Day is Nov. 2

Voters will choose federal, state and local elected officials, as well as decide any local referendums at the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 2.



Registering to Vote

Residents who are not currently registered to vote may pre-register by Oct. 12 by mail or at the Scott County Elections Office, 200 Fourth Avenue West. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen who will be at least 18 years old on Election Day and who has been a Minnesota resident at least 20 days before the election. Eligible voters may register at the polls on Election Day with authorized proof of residence (allow extra time).

Election Day

On Election Day, polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To locate your polling place, contact City Hall at 952-233-9300 (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/elections.cfm), Scott County Elections at 952-496-8560 (www.co.scott.mn.us) or the Secretary of State's website at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available for persons who expect to be absent from the precinct on Election Day due to illness, disability, religious discipline, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge in another precinct. Applications for absentee voting will be available at Scott County Elections from Sept. 17 to Nov. 1 during regular business hours. In addition, Scott County Elections will be open **Saturday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 1 until 5 p.m.** for absentee voting. There is no absentee voting at the city offices!

Election Results

Results from the election will be available on the Scott County website and the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.state.mn.us) after the polls close.

Election Judges Needed

Additional election judges are needed for the November election. Attendance at a two hour training session is required. For additional information, please call 952-233-9316 as soon as possible.

News & Notes

Hunting and Shooting Reminders

As you prepare for hunting season, be sure check out the City of Shakopee's hunting and shooting ordinance. Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/hunting.cfm for hunting and shooting regulations, links to maps, and information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

CERT Training

What would you do if a major emergency cuts off essential services? This fall, the Shakopee Fire Department will offer training for such events through the Community Emergency Response Team program. For class dates, information or registration forms, call 952-233-9570 or visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_cert.cfm.



Register Now for Jack o'Lantern 5K



The Shakopee Parks and Recreation Department will hold the 2nd annual Jack o'Lantern 5K and Kids Pumpkin Run on Saturday, Oct. 30 at the Shakopee Community Center (1255 Fuller St.). Bring the entire family for this fun event and don't forget to wear a costume.

The 5K race begins at 9 a.m., and the Pumpkin Run will start at 10:15 a.m. There will be prizes for the top male and female finishers in both races and the best costumes.

Registration for either run is available in the Parks and Recreation Brochure or online at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/online-registration.cfm (Program #Jacko 5K and #Jacko Kids). The registration fee for the 5K race is \$15 through Oct. 8, \$20 from Oct. 9-29, and \$25 on race day. The fee for the Pumpkin Run is \$5. Pumpkin Run registrations will not be accepted on race day.

Sewer Backups: Prevention and Clean Up

Although it's uncommon, any home could experience a sewer backup. Before a problem occurs, check with your insurance agent to see if you have coverage with your policy.

The City is not responsible for sewer backups, unless they are caused by negligence in maintaining the system lines. Backup damage that results from vandalism or people dumping grease, diapers or other materials in the system will not be covered by the City's insurance. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair and cleaning of the service line from the house to the City main line.



Sewer backups can be prevented by not disposing of diapers, paper towels, large amounts of food, or cooking grease in the sanitary sewer system.

If you experience a sewer backup, immediately contact the Public Works Department at 952-233-9550 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., or Scott County dispatch at 952-445-1411 after hours. The City provides a brochure that outlines how to clean up after a sewer backup on its website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/publicworks.cfm, under the "Useful Tips for Residents" section, click "Sewer Backup Information."

Subscribe to E-News

Get the latest general news and/or Parks and Recreation news between issues of the *Hometown Messenger* by subscribing to the City's e-newsletters. To subscribe, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the "Sign Up for E-News from the City of Shakopee" icon.

Watch Meetings Online

If you're unable to watch City government meetings during their scheduled time, try watching them online. Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the "Video on Demand" image. On the next page, click the name of the City body to get a complete list of past meetings. Select "Video" next to the meeting you want to watch.



www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

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Comments or suggestions on the *Hometown Messenger* should be directed to the editor at lcram@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Important News

Precious minutes are lost when firefighters can't find fire hydrants because they are obstructed by landscaping or snow. To provide easier access, make sure there is at least a three-foot clearance around the hydrant. Ground cover, rock, mulch and plantings are allowed within the clearance area; however, plantings cannot be higher than six inches below the largest connection on the hydrant (the one facing the street). During winter months, remember to dig a pathway around the hydrant and to the street.

Residents with obstructions around their hydrant will be notified by letter and asked to relocate the plantings or other items. Noncompliance will result in a citation and City/utility removal of the obstructions at the property owner's expense.

Questions? Contact the Shakopee Fire Department at 952-233-9570.



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Message from the Mayor

Road Improvements Planned in the Area

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

This summer, many drivers visited parts of the City they normally wouldn't, thanks to road construction detours. While we may be temporarily inconvenienced with longer, more scenic rides, we know the end results of smoother and safer roads and better traffic flow make it worthwhile.

Watch for these current and future road construction projects:

- CR 21-The new segment starts north of CR 42 and continues to Hwy. 169. Several roadways have been closed for installation of underground utilities and sewers. Expected Completion: summer 2012.
- CR 83 - Expansion to four lanes between CR 16 and CR 42 and addition of walking trails. Expected Completion: the end of summer.
- Hwy 101/First Avenue – Reconstruction between Fillmore Street and Marschall Road. Plans are being finalized, with reconstruction starting spring 2011. Expected Completion: fall 2011.
- Hwy 169/I-494 Interchange – The stoplights will be removed to provide continuous traffic flow. Work should start in spring 2011. Expected Completion: 2 ½ years.
- CR 18 - Reconstruction of the roadway from CR 42 to north of Preserve Trail is under way. Expected Completion: September.
- CR 69 - Upgrades are planned from 1st Avenue to Hwy. 169 during 2011/2012.
- CR 17/CR 42 Interchange – Plans are being finalized with right of way acquisition under way. Construction to start in 2011.

More information on many of these projects is available at www.co.scott.mn.us/RoadsTransport/Roads/Pages/RoadInformation.aspx and www.dot.state.mn.us/roadwork/future.html.



Mayor John J. Schmitt