



Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 2, Issue 3

Fall 2009 UPCOMING

September 2009

Sept. 4-7

Labor Day, City Offices and Community Center will be closed beginning at 4:30 p.m., Sept. 4.

Sept. 8

Last day to file to run for City Council or Mayor

Sept. 19

8 -11 a.m., Pet Fair, Lions Park

Sunset, Movie in the Park, Huber Park

October 2009

Oct. 17

8:30-11:30 a.m., Fire Department Open House, 2700 Vierling Dr. E

Oct. 30

5:30 p.m., Scary Skate/Family Fun Night, Community Center

Oct. 31

9 a.m., Jack o Lantern 5K & Kids Pumpkin Run, Community Center

November 2009

Nov. 1

Winter Parking Restrictions Begin

Nov. 3

Election Day, Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 11

Veteran's Day, City offices 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.

City Elections to be Held this Fall

Many local leadership positions will be decided on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Residents will cast their votes for mayor, City Council members and school board members.



Filing for Mayor and City Council Positions

The City will have three elected official positions on the ballot this fall. They are mayor (two-year term from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2011) and two City Council seats (four-year terms from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2013). Residents may file to run for these positions between Tuesday, Aug. 25 and Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Shakopee City Hall (129 S. Holmes St., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). The filing fee is \$5. For more information, call 952-233-9315.

To file, the person must be a citizen of the United States; a Shakopee resident for 30 days immediately before the election; and at least 21 years old when assuming office.

Information about school board openings is available on the Shakopee School District's website (www.shakopee.k12.mn.us) or by calling 952-496-5006.

Registering to Vote

Residents who are not currently registered to vote may pre-register by Oct. 13 at the Scott County Elections Office or at Shakopee City Hall. 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 City Hall or Scott County Elections from Oct. 3 to Nov. 2 during regular business hours. In addition, City Hall will be open **Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 2 until 5 p.m.** for absentee voting.

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.

Fire Prevention Week '09

Shakopee firefighters will once again be visiting area schools this fall to promote Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-10) and to share important fire safety tips with students in pre-kindergarten through 4th grade.

This is a great time to review fire safety tips and procedures with your family. Fire can spread rapidly in a home, so be prepared. Develop a basic home fire escape plan and practice it. Identify two exits for every room and choose an outside meeting place.

The best way to protect your family in a fire is to have working smoke alarms. Install one on every level, including the basement, and in each bedroom. Test alarms monthly and replace the batteries once a year or when the alarm "chirps." Smoke alarms (including hard-wired ones) should be replaced after 10 years.

Another theme that will be discussed during Fire Prevention Week is to "Stay fire smart! Don't get burned." Many burn injuries could be prevented by taking time to remember the danger posed by hot water, candles, fire places/pits, hot appliances and electronics, and cooking.

To learn more fire safety and prevention tips or how to prepare a home escape plan, visit www.firepreventionweek.org or www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fire_tips.cfm.



Electronic Document Library Use Tips

The City's website (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) houses an Electronic Document Library with the City Council agenda packets, the City Code and Ordinances, and zoning information (City Code, Chapter 11). Links to the Document Library can be found on the home page and throughout the site. Following are some tips for using the library.



- **General Navigation** – Click a folder in the left column to see its subfolders or files. Selected files will display in the right column. Click the desired file folder to view the contents. Navigate through a document by using the arrow buttons at the top of the page or by entering a page number and clicking "Go."
- **Searching for Documents** – Click the "Search Tab" in the left column. Use the "Customize Search" menu to select search criteria. Select additional search criteria by choosing another item from the "Customize Search" list. Complete the information fields and click "Search." (Multiple search criteria will refine the search.)
- **Downloading a PDF** – Download a PDF to read a large document or to print. Click the red and white icon with a green arrow.
- **Password Prompt** – A limited number of users may access the Document Library at one time. When the limit is reached, visitors are prompted for a password. If this happens, please try again later.

SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS



Shakopee schools will be back in session in the next few days. Get the school year off to a safe start by remembering these tips.

Students: Wait for the bus on the side of the road, in a driveway or out of the way of traffic. When crossing busy streets, stay in the marked crossing zones. Walk on the sidewalk when possible, but when walking on the street, walk against traffic. If you ride your bike, wear a helmet, use reflectors and follow the rules of the road.

Drivers: Watch for students near schools and in neighborhoods where bus stops are. Slow down to posted speeds in school zones and always give pedestrians the right of way. Most importantly, be alert to bikes or kids darting in front of traffic.

News & Notes

Hunting and Shooting Reminders

As you prepare for hunting season, be sure to 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.

Sewer Backups

Though uncommon, most 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. Learn more at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/publicworks.cfm.

Make Your Own Show a Reality



Shakopee Public Access (SPA) Cable Channel 15 provides the resources and airtime for residents and businesses to create non-commercial programming for city viewers. Examples of programming include local sporting events, informational/how-to shows, church services and community events.

Making your own show a reality is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. **Register with SPA.** Complete a brief registration form and show a valid ID.
2. **Check out our FREE Equipment.** SPA has all the equipment you'll need – camcorders, mics, tripods, a light kit, a portable three-camera studio and editing equipment. Call 952-233-9500 to reserve equipment, then pick it up at the Shakopee Community Center (1255 Fuller St. S.).
3. **Create and Submit the Program.** Complete the Program Submittal Form and return it with your ready-to-cablecast program.

Now residents have another place to watch local Public Access programming. In July, SPA launched its new website www.shakopeepublicaccess.com. In addition to a live video stream, website visitors will find a list of available equipment, necessary forms, frequently asked questions about producing a program for Public Access, Community Bulletins, and the upcoming cablecast schedule.



Budget Cycle Progresses

Throughout the summer, City departments and the City Council have been developing the 2010 operating budget and looking ahead to 2011. After holding budget work sessions to review proposed budgets and address questions and concerns, the City Council will consider and adopt a proposed maximum tax levy by Sept. 15. This is the levy that Scott County will use for proposed property tax notices that it sends in November.

The process will wrap up with public hearings in early December and final approval of the tax levy and budget by Dec. 15.

Residents are invited to follow the process by attending meetings, watching meetings on Cable Channel 16 or online (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) and visiting the Budget Corner web page at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/budgetcorner.cfm.

Storm Water Pollution

Water flowing into storm drains and sewers often feeds into the nearest body of water. That water can easily be polluted with herbicides, pesticides, yard waste, pet waste and run off from roofs and driveways. Help reduce the amount of pollution your household adds to these bodies of water by visiting www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pollution_prevention.cfm for tips and information.

CERT Training

Would you know what to do if a major emergency cut off essential city services? This fall, the Shakopee Fire Department will offer neighborhood training and assistance in preparation 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.



www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

City of Shakopee

Mayor John J. Schmitt

Emailjschmitt@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Councilor Steven Clay

Emailsclay@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Councilor Patrick Heitzman

Emailpheitzman@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Councilor Terry Joos

Emailterryjoos@hotmail.com

Councilor Matt Lehman

EmailMattLehmanSr@comcast.net

City Hall

Administration • Planning/Zoning • Building/Inspections
129 S. Holmes Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone 952-233-9300

TTY 952-233-9391

Fax 952-233-3801

Email ... administration@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Community Center

1255 Fuller Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone 952-233-9500

TTY 952-496-4122

Fax 952-233-3831

Email parks@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Police Department

475 Gorman Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone 952-233-9400

TTY 952-233-9491

Tip Line 952-233-9499

Email police@ci.shakopee.mn.us

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

Important News

E-Newsletter Now Available

The City of Shakopee recently added an e-newsletter subscription service to its website (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us). Persons interested in following City news between deliveries of the quarterly *Hometown Messenger* may sign up to receive general news, parks and recreation news and transportation and transit news via email.

To subscribe, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the "Sign Up for E-News from the City of Shakopee" icon in the left column. Complete the form and click the subscribe button. You will be sent an email asking you to confirm your subscription by clicking the URL in the email. After doing so, a second email will be sent showing the subscription has been registered.

Missed an e-newsletter edition? Past issues of e-news are available online at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/enewsarchive.cfm.



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Message from the Mayor

SCALE Cooperation Leads to Savings for Taxpayers

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

In 2003, the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) formed and began working to make taxpayer dollars go further and do more. Given the current economic challenges facing municipalities and the state, SCALE's work has become even more important today.

SCALE is made up of representatives of Scott County, cities, townships, school districts and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, who meet monthly to find greater efficiencies through communication, collaboration of services and the sharing of resources. Early successes include an equipment sharing agreement, cooperative purchasing and employee training. Last summer, SCALE opened the Regional Public Safety Training Facility in Jordan. The facility provides training opportunities for law enforcement, firefighting, emergency preparedness, emergency management and public works employees.

SCALE's work continues as it helps to shape Scott County for the future. A current focus for the group is to develop a sustainable community in terms of economic development, land use and transportation. One way to do this is by attracting and retaining more jobs to the county, hopefully leading to more residents being employed in their home county. Another is to reduce the duplication of local efforts in transportation planning and traffic forecasting, which will help individual cities or the county meet transportation needs in a more cost-effective way whether done individually or collaboratively.

Watch for more information and updates about SCALE at www.co.scott.mn.us/wps/portal/SCALE.



Mayor John J. Schmitt