



Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2010 UPCOMING

April 2010

- 1** 2010 Census Due
Winter Parking Regulations End
- 19-23** Severe Weather Awareness Week
- 23** **6-8 p.m.**, Family Taco Dinner & Movie, Vierling Drive Fire Station, \$8-10 per person. Register with Parks & Recreation by April 16.
- 24** **7:30 - 11:30 a.m.**, Clean Up Day, Public Works Building
1 - 3 p.m., Arbor Day Tree Sale, Public Works Building

May 2010

- 11** **7 p.m.**, Board of Review Meeting, City Hall
- 31** **Memorial Day**, City Offices/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.

City Council Develops 2010-2011 Priorities

Shakopee's City Councilors and staff have been meeting since January to take a proactive approach to planning for the City's immediate and long-term needs. These meetings looked at where the City of Shakopee has been, where it is now, and what it could be in the future.

As a result of these conversations, the Council has identified the following three priority or focus areas for the next two years:

Transportation

Numerous transportation and transit projects planned for the next few years will have short and long-term impacts on the City and its residents. The City Council and staff will be actively involved in the reconstruction of the First Avenue/Hwy 101 Corridor from the downtown area to Marschall Road; improvements to Marschall Road/CR 17; final construction of CR 21 leading from Prior Lake through the Southbridge area of Shakopee to CR 18; planning for enhanced or new river crossings at CR 101 and TH 41; and the design of a future intersection at CR 69 and US 169. Other goals will focus on pedestrian trails and transit options.

Economic Development



In this economic climate, businesses retention, job growth and tax base expansion are more important than ever. The City is working with several partners to place a renewed emphasis on economic development issues related to the downtown business district, the City's various retail centers, and both existing and new industrial parks. Another related element is the impact that residential foreclosures have had on our community and what the City's role can, or should be in relationship to these properties.

Strengthening Community Identity and Connections

The last decade of overwhelming growth has added new residents and increased diversity to a city in which many residents have lived their entire lives. The City Council hopes to find new ways for all residents to feel welcome, included and valued and to examine the demand for a variety of community amenities to serve our growing and changing population.



The Council has also identified the City's traditions of responsible fiscal management and the provision of high quality public works and public safety services as two of the City's existing core areas of strength that will require continued attention and innovation to maintain. The Mayor and City Council will also examine and affirm the long-term goals that were identified in the 2005 Strategic Visioning Initiative process.

Work on these priority areas will be ongoing throughout the next two years. As always, residents are encouraged to contact the Mayor and City Council or City staff with their input and feedback. Contact information can be found at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us.

STAYING SAFE on your bike

Whether you ride a bike for exercise or transportation, reduce your risk for accidents by following these safety tips:

Dress for the Part and Be Seen – Wear a helmet to protect your head and bright clothes so drivers can see you. Bicyclists must use a headlight and rear reflector when it is dark. Adding a rear flashing light is also suggested.

Bikes Have the Same Rights as Other Vehicles – Bikes may be ridden on most Minnesota roads, unless specifically posted otherwise. Bicyclists should drive on the road (not on sidewalk) and travel the same direction as traffic. Since bikes are treated like other motor vehicles, they also must obey all traffic laws, such as signaling turns, yielding right of way, and obeying traffic control signals.

Motorists Must Watch for Bikes and Respect Bicyclists' Rights – Motorist must maintain a three-foot clearance when passing bicyclists and yield the right of way to bicyclists just as they would another car.

The City's website provides links to several bicycle safety resources. Learn more at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_bikesafety.cfm.



CLEAN UP DAY IS APRIL 24

Start your spring cleaning now and plan to bring your recyclable items and other large refuse to the City of Shakopee's annual Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 24, from 7:30-11:30 a.m., behind the Public Works building (400 Gorman St.).



Residents of Shakopee, Louisville Township and Jackson Township (I.D. required), will be charged \$25 per vehicle load (pick-up truck size or smaller) of recyclable items. Some of these items include: brush bundles, yard waste, tires (4 included in fee, up to 8 for an additional charge), electronics, scrap metal (BBQ grills – briquettes removed, propane tank valve removed; lawn mowers – oil and fuel drained), car batteries, and up to two major appliances (stove, refrigerator, water heaters).

Clean-Up Day
Saturday, April 24
7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Residents disposing of acceptable refuse that is not recyclable will be charged a flat fee based on the vehicle used for transport: \$25 per car, \$30 per trailer and \$30 per pick-up truck. Additional fees will be charged for mattresses or box springs (\$20 each), console TVs or stereos (\$25), and computers and monitors (\$10).

The following items will not be accepted: liquids, chemicals and oils; light bulbs; paints and paint cans; tree logs or stumps; lumber and contractor materials; and water softeners.

More information is available at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/Clean_Up_Day.cfm or by calling 952-233-9550 or 952-233-3837 TTY.

During Clean Up Day, the Shakopee Rotary will be collecting gently used furniture and household items for Bridging, Inc. Bridging, Inc. serves people in need based on qualified referrals from social service agencies and churches in the metropolitan area. All donations are tax deductible (thrift market value) and should be in good condition, clean and not used beyond a respectable life. To make a donation, go directly to the north side of the Public Works building. For more information or to schedule a pick-up, contact Capesius Agency at 952-445-1922.

Clean Up Day is funded in part through grants from Scott County and Shakopee's Recycling Rebate Program with Dick's Sanitation.

News & Notes

Get to Know Your Property

Before you tackle that spring or summer yard project, take a few minutes to get to know your property. Find out where your property lines are, what areas of your property are in an easement and where your utility lines run. Advance planning can save you money and headaches later. Learn more tips at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fencepermit.cfm.

City Officials' Salaries

Minnesota Statute 471.70 requires that "a city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of the three highest-paid employees." For the City of Shakopee, titles and salaries are: City Administrator \$121,094, Police Chief \$105,005, and the Finance Director, Public Works Director and Community Development Director who each earn \$104,529.



Add a Tree to Your Yard

Purchase a new tree for your yard at the Arbor Day Tree Sale on Saturday, April 24 from 1-3 p.m. at the Public Works building (400 Gorman Street). Shakopee residents (I.D. required) can buy one containerized tree per household (prices range from \$103.62 - \$131.44, cash or check only). Exact tree species are listed at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/Clean_Up_Day.cfm.

Trees will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis on the day of the sale and do not have warranties. Tree buyers are responsible for transporting the tree at the time of sale and planting it. These trees usually are 10 to 12 feet tall and weigh 100 - 120 pounds. Don't forget, a Tree Planting Permit is needed to plant a tree in a city easement. Call 952-233-9500 for details. Remember to visit www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 651-454-0002 to have underground utilities marked.

City Acquires Land for Future Fire Station and Natural Area

After years of trying, the City has finally acquired a 50 acre parcel of land in the Southbridge area known as Parcel 75. Originally acquired by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as part of the Hwy 169 bypass project, the parcel contains an environmentally valuable oak savannah. The majority of the parcel will remain a natural park with trails and a future restroom facility. A small portion of the land adjacent to Southbridge Parkway will be used for the site of a future Fire Station.

The parcel was acquired in a three way "swap" between the City of Shakopee, Scott County and MnDOT. While the City comes away with Parcel 75, Scott County obtains land previously owned by the City that can be used for stormwater ponding necessitated by the construction of Country Rd. 21, and MnDOT is able to transfer ownership and future maintenance of the historic Holmes Street bridge to the County. The bridge is currently undergoing extensive renovations prior to the transfer of ownership.



Prepare for Severe Weather

Severe Weather Awareness week is April 19-23. Shakopee will participate in the statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 22 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. Learn more about the severe weather that affects our area at www.hsem.state.mn.us.

Board of Review Meeting

The Shakopee Board of Appeal and Equalization will meet at City Hall at 7 p.m., May 11 to review and correct 2010 property assessments. Shakopee property owners who disagree with their property valuation or classification may appeal it at the meeting. Residents with questions about their valuations are encouraged to call the Scott County Appraiser at 952-496-8772 before the meeting.



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

City Now Offering E-News

Persons interested in receiving news from the City of Shakopee between deliveries of the quarterly *Hometown Messenger* may sign up to receive general news, park and recreation news, and transportation and transit news (in the future) 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 right 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.

The general news email is delivered every three or four weeks, and the parks and recreation news is sent every one to two months.

Past issues of e-news are available online at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/enewsarchive.cfm.



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Message from the Mayor

2010 Census: Be Counted

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

We need to make sure Shakopee is counted! Please complete and return the 2010 Census questionnaire mailed to your household in mid-March.

The 2010 Census is important to both the City of Shakopee and the State of Minnesota. It provides the City with an accurate picture of the residents it serves and will determine whether the state maintains or loses one of its current Congressional seats. The results are also used to allocate federal funding for a variety of services ranging from education to transportation.

It's Easy. The questionnaire has 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It is confidential since information about individuals cannot legally be shared with other people or agencies until 72 years after it is collected.

It's Your Civic Duty. Completing the Census is required by law. Returning it by the April 1, 2010, deadline actually saves taxpayer dollars. The Census Bureau will make every effort to obtain a complete count, including sending follow up mailings and making personal visits to households that haven't returned the questionnaire. Even if you are late, please return it.

Let's Count Everyone. For individuals whose primary language is not English, Census questionnaires in other languages will be available at the Shakopee Library (235 S. Lewis Street).

To learn more about the 2010 Census, visit www.census.gov.



Mayor John J. Schmitt