



# Deephaven News

*"Information for Residents"*

Volume 1, Issue 62

January, February and March, 2021

## City Newsletters posted on Webpage

Starting in April of this year, the City Council is considering discontinuing mailing out the City Newsletter with the quarterly utility bills and instead directing everyone to the City webpage at [www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org).

Please search under "About Us" to review all past and future publications of the City Newsletter. If you would prefer to continue to receive a hard copy of the City Newsletter, or if you would like to have other communications from the City sent to you via email, or if you have any other ideas or suggestions you would like to send to the Council or City Staff, please feel free to email us at [info@cityofdeephaven.org](mailto:info@cityofdeephaven.org).

## Christmas Tree Disposal

Waste Management will collect all real trees on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the weeks of January 4, 2021 and January 11, 2021.

Please contact Waste Management at 952-890-1100 to schedule your pickup.

There is **no charge** for this pickup and the trees collected as part of this program will be chipped and used for compost. Please note that wreaths and flocked or artificial trees cannot be composted. These items should be set out with your regular garbage.

To ensure your tree is collected and composted, please:

- Remove all decorations and wire;
- Do NOT wrap the tree in a plastic bag; and
- Place the tree at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. the day of your scheduled pickup. Trees set out too early may get buried from passing snowplows, making it very difficult to free the tree from the snow.



## Warming House Closed

While the ice rinks and restrooms at Village Hall Park and Thorpe Park will continue to be open for public use, the warming houses at both parks **will not be open** due to the surge in COVID-19 cases and Governor Walz latest guidelines regarding the use of public facilities.

We are hoping that once conditions change, we will be able to open the warming houses to the public. The opening of the warming houses will likely coincide with the reopening of Deephaven City Hall to the public.

In the meantime, benches will be provided to allow people to change into their skates and the outdoor lights will be on from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.



## Inside this Issue:

- P. 2 Board of Review Meeting
- P. 3 2021 Improvement Projects
- P. 4. 2020 Municipal Election

City of Deephaven  
20225 Cottagewood Rd.  
Deephaven, MN. 55331  
952-474-4755  
[www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org)

### City Hall Hours:

Regular Hours: Mon to Fri 8am to 4:30pm Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

Summer Hours : June 1 to August 28th, Mon to Thurs 8am to 5pm  
Fridays 8am to 12noon  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

When you review your property tax statements this March, please note that your property tax is determined by four factors: the amount of money spent by each local taxing jurisdiction, the impact of the market value exclusion credit, the taxable market value of your property, and your property classification.

The Deephaven Board of Review will address objections to the market value or property classification of your property on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Board's powers are limited to these two areas.

**Steps to Appeal Your Property Value:** What should you do if you believe the estimated market value of your property is higher than other comparable properties?

**Step 1** – Meet with City Assessor Dan Distel. If you have reason to believe that the estimated market value of your property is higher than other comparable properties, we strongly recommend that your very first step should be to contact City Assessor Dan Distel at his Home Office 952-361-0566 to discuss this issue in greater detail. He may be able to answer your questions without having to attend the Board of Review meeting.

**Step 2** - If, after discussing this information with the assessor, you still feel you have good comparable sales and information to support an appeal, you should attend the Board of Review meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Deephaven City Hall. Please remember that the property owner is responsible for presenting evidence to the Board as to why the market value as determined by the assessor is not fair and equitable.

**Appeals at the April 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Review will be considered in the following order:**

1. Those residents who have met with the Assessor but were unable to come to a mutual agreement on the estimated market value of your property.
  2. Those residents presenting their cases in advance of the meeting by letter or email.
  3. And lastly, those residents who have come directly to the board without advance notice or without contacting the assessor prior to the meeting.
- Residents will be allowed five minutes to present their appeal to the Board.
  - Residents will be notified within three business days of the board's decision.
  - The board may decide to hold a reconvened meeting for the purpose of considering the appeals presented on April 19<sup>th</sup>. New appeals will not be heard at the reconvened meeting.



## Northome Bridge Project Update

This past September, the City was notified that it had been awarded \$400,000 in federal funding for the Northome Bridge as a result of a grant application submitted back in 2017. One of the conditions of this grant is that the City has to provide up to 20% or \$80,000 of the total grant.

More exciting news followed in October when the City Council learned that the State Legislature passed a Bonding Bill that included \$750,000 in funding for the Northome Bridge. This funding must be used exclusively for those costs associated with the construction of the Northome Bridge. The City is grateful to the efforts of Senator David Osmek and Representative Kelly Morrison for their invaluable efforts in obtaining this funding.

With this combined funding of \$1,150,000, the City Council has authorized preliminary engineering and design work to begin on the bridge. The preliminary cost estimates for the Northome Bridge are \$786,000 for a concrete beam option and \$966,000 for a steel beam option. Other design options are also under consideration and all designs will be provided on the City Webpage. Construction on a new bridge is unlikely to occur any earlier than Fall of 2021.

The owner of a \$650,000 median valued home in Deephaven will pay a total of \$8,010 in property taxes in 2021. Here's where your tax money ends up.

**\$1,171 goes to the City of Deephaven** – The City receives 14.6% of your property tax payment. A household with a median valued home of \$650,000 pays \$98 per month to the City for the following array of services:

- 24-hour police and fire protection
- Prompt snowplowing of all city streets
- Full-service parks with 8 tennis courts, 3 ball fields, 4 ice rinks & 7 playground structures
- Six beaches – 3 with lifeguard services
- Three public trails
- Street maintenance, boulevard maintenance, street sweeping & street lighting
- Park maintenance
- Public tree maintenance
- Deer management
- Building & zoning code enforcement
- Office staff to assist residents and answer questions
- Municipal, State & National Elections

**\$3,550 goes to the Minnetonka School District** – The School District receives 44.3% of your property tax payment for public education through the property tax levy and a voter approved school levy. A household with a median valued home of \$650,000 pays about \$296 per month to the School District.

**\$2,618 goes to Hennepin County** – Hennepin County receives 33.7% of your property tax payment. A household with a median valued home of \$650,000 pays about \$218 per month to Hennepin County.

**\$671 goes to other agencies** such as the Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, Mosquito Control, Hennepin County Parks, Met Transit Debt, the Park Museum, Hennepin County HRA, and the Railroad Authority – These agencies receive about 8.4% of your property tax payment. A household with a median valued home of \$650,000 pays about \$56 per month to these various agencies.

**In comparison with the other 44 cities in Hennepin County, Deephaven would rank with the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest tax capacity rate in 2021.**



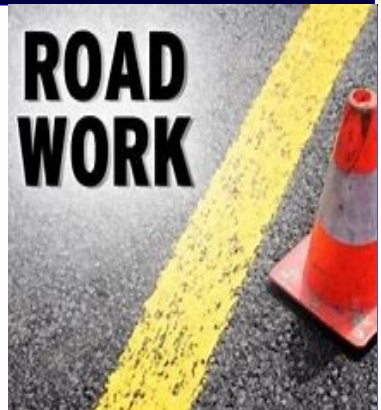
## 2021 Improvement Projects

Major 2021 projects will include street resurfacing on Carson Road, West Easton Road, Eastwood Drive, Hamilton Avenue, and Maplewood Road. The cost of resurfacing these streets is estimated at approximately \$540,000. More information on this project will be forthcoming in future newsletters and on the City's website at

[www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org).

### Other 2021 Improvement Projects include:

	Est. Cost
Shuck Park Half-Court Basketball Court	\$ 42,000
Sewer Main Rehabilitation	\$ 75,000
Sewer Main Cleaning & Televising	\$ 45,000
Storm Water System Improvements	<u>\$120,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$282,000</b>



## Rental Property & Utility and Garbage Payments

If you are currently renting your home, please be aware that the Deephaven City Code requires all delinquent water, sewer and garbage/recycling bills to be assessed to the property owner. It can come as an unpleasant surprise to a property owner to learn that an assessment will be placed against their property because their renter hasn't been paying their quarterly utility bills or garbage/recycling bills.

If you are renting your home, we strongly recommend that you consider the fact that the property owner is ultimately responsible for payment of utility and garbage bills.



## WINTER TRAIL ACTIVITIES

The City will maintain the LRT trail through the City of Deephaven for winter use



from November 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> for those who wish to continue to use the trail through the winter months.

With a voter turnout of 91.2%, Deephaven residents turned out in droves to vote either in-person or by absentee ballot for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election.

A HUGE thank you to our staff, who administered much of the absentee voting, and to our Election Judges, who did such an outstanding job conducting the in-person voting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We also greatly appreciate St. Therese Church for allowing us to use their community room during the election.

The results of the 2020 Municipal Election are as follows:

### MAYOR (2 Year Term)

Paul Skrede	1,671
Jim Friedlander	569
Other Write-In	83

### COUNCIL MEMBER (4 Year Term – 2 Elected)

Kent Carlson	1,457
Steven Erickson	1,441
J.D. Macrae	502
Lynn Hooper	480
Other Write-In	52

For more election information, go to the City website at [www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org).

## Snowplow Damage

The width of the street right-of-way is designed to provide room for snow storage, utilities, sidewalks and other public uses. However, certain private uses, such as mailboxes, are also often located in the right-of-way. If the street or grass boulevard is damaged by a snowplow, City crews will repair the damage in the spring. If your mailbox is physically hit and damaged by a plow, the City will repair or replace it immediately.

Please note, however, that the City will only repair those mailboxes or posts that were actually hit by the plow. It is not uncommon for posts to be damaged by snow or ice from the plow and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that their mailbox post is strong enough to withstand being hit periodically by snow and ice.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for the City crew to clear snow from around mailboxes with the size and type of equipment that the City operates to clear snow. The final cleaning around mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.

City personnel do not clear private driveways nor do we intentionally plow more snow into your driveway than your neighbor. You may inadvertently receive more snow due to the angle of the plow blade or the angle of the street.



## Snowmobile & ATV Prohibitions

Along with snowplows come snowmobiles and ATV's. If you are operating a snowmobile or ATV within the city limits, please be aware that Ordinance No. 705.03 prohibits the operation of snowmobiles and ATV's under any of the following circumstances:

- On a sidewalk or walkway used for pedestrian traffic,
- On private property without having in possession written consent from the property owner,
- On any public land or frozen waters including, but not limited to, school property, park property, public beaches, playgrounds and recreational areas except for areas authorized for such use (the Carson's Bay and St. Louis Bay boat launches, for example) when traveling to or from the approved snowmobile routes.
- Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., except for travel to or from a final destination without delay, and
- On any street except when traveling to or from an approved area by the shortest legal route.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter.



## 2021 Storm Water Rate Increase

On December 7, 2020, the Deephaven City Council approved a \$5.00 per month storm water rate increase that will go into effect in January 2021 with payments due beginning with the April 2021 utility billing. The storm water rate will increase from \$8.50 per month to \$13.50 per month. This rate increase will generate an additional \$88,920 per year in Storm Water Fund revenues. This is the second storm water rate increase in two years.

**Why is a rate increase needed?** The Storm Water Fund finances the repair and replacement of all existing catch basins, culverts, and storm water mains throughout Deephaven. It also funds all future additions to the storm water system, which have been estimated at \$803,000 over the next ten years. Every time the City resurfaces a street, it is not uncommon to have to replace deteriorating storm water lines, catch basins and culverts located under the street. This rate increase will finance these projects and other storm water improvements, as well as provide necessary funding to help address issues pertaining to landlocked ponds and wetlands.

## Interested in Frisbee Golf?

The Deephaven Park Committee is evaluating whether to add a frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park. The course would consist of 3 holes and would be located away from walking paths and playground equipment. The installation of the course would be done using donated labor and would not result in the removal of any trees or alter the terrain.

Please go to the City Website at [www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org) to fill out a short survey on your interest and potential concerns, if any, with creating a frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park. We would love to get your feedback!



## Don't trash fluorescent bulbs

With the increased popularity of compact fluorescent bulbs comes the need to recycle old fluorescent bulbs. Mercury in the fluorescent bulbs makes bulbs hazardous in a landfill or incinerator.

The City of Deephaven offers a **convenience drop off box for residents** located on the first-floor lobby of City Hall right next to the Police Office.



## Volunteers are a Huge Asset to the City

Volunteers play a critical role in our City. They provide recommendations on issues relating to planning and land use; they beautify our city gardens and parks; they preserve our historical heritage; and provide recommendations on the improvements of our parks, and beaches. As we look forward to a new year, we would like to look back and thank all those volunteers who have devoted so much of their personal time to help their community in 2020 by serving on the **Planning & Zoning Commission, Park Committee, Garden Club and Historical Society.**

If you have time and an interest in serving your community, please call City Hall at 952-474-4755 and ask for a Volunteer Application Form. Thank you!!

## Utility Payment Drop Off Box

For your convenience, the City has installed a utility bill security box for utility payments located right next to the public mailbox in the City Hall parking lot. We hope it might be more convenient for you to drop off your utility payment right from your car than having to park and come into City Hall.

## Staff Milestones in 2021

Deephaven is very fortunate to be served by a talented and dedicated staff. Please join us in thanking our employees for their valuable contributions to our community:

**Over 20 years of service** – Cory Johnson, John Menzel, Teresa Pendleton, and Dana Young

**Over 15 years of service** – Deborah Hicks and Chris Whiteside

**Over 10 years of service** – Jeff Kask and David Klisczc

**Over 5 years of service** – Libby McColl and Ethan Read

**Less than 5 years of service** – Chris Bennis, Kaylin Nelson, Jace Rosenfeld, Sara Skalle, Tracy Gustafson, Mark Duffy, Dan Smith, and Pat Smith



Here we are in mid-December as I write this column. The TV is on in hopes of hearing news about potential COVID vaccination progress, golf appears to be over for the day/season, the lakes are beginning to freeze, everyone's yards are basically leaf-less, and the Christmas decorations appear to be more prevalent this year, but there is no snow. I am not complaining; simply confused.

As the new year begins, we are hoping to add some additional communication capabilities to our web site and through the email address [info@cityofdeephaven.org](mailto:info@cityofdeephaven.org) Dana mentioned at the beginning of this Newsletter. If you are fine with how and what you are currently getting from us, so am I. However, if you want more information, we want to provide it to you in whatever form you wish... so, just let us know.

I feel 2020 was a productive year for us ... the road resurfacing work went quite smoothly, storm water improvement projects totaled \$225,000 and new tennis courts were installed in Shuck Park... all in the middle of a pandemic that made in-person meetings difficult, school closings a burden for many of us and several elections that taxed our volunteers and the office hours at City Hall. A big thanks to everyone involved for your work, your patience and cooperation! Thank you for re-electing Steve, Kent, and me to another term, so we can continue to work for you. We are excited to get started.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Paul

**2021 Rescheduled Council Meetings**—There are four regularly scheduled Council meetings in 2021 that conflict with a major holiday. These four regularly scheduled Council meetings have been rescheduled to the following dates:

Original Date	Event	Alternate Date
Monday, January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King Day	Cancelled
Monday, February 15, 2021	President's Day	Cancelled
Monday, July 5, 2021	Election Preparations	Tuesday, July 6, 2021
Monday, September 6, 2021	Labor Day	Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**City Office will be closed :** January 1, January 18 and February 15

**City Hall "Regular" Hours:** Monday to Friday 8 to 4:30, Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

**Summer Hours:** June 1 to August 28, Monday to Thursday 8 to 5:00, Fridays 8—Noon, Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

#### Your City Staff:

Dana Young, City Administrator  
 Tracy Gustafson, Deputy Clerk  
 Deborah Hicks, Utility Billing, Marina Operations  
 Pat Smith, Zoning Coordinator  
 Teresa Pendleton, Building Permits  
 Cory Johnson, Police Chief  
 Elizabeth McColl, Police Admin Assistant  
 John Menzel, Public Works Foreman  
 Sara Skalle, Woodland Clerk



#### Your City Council:

Mayor: Paul Skrede

Council members:

Steve Erickson, Tony Jewett,  
 Kent Carlson, Melissa McNeill

#### Phone Numbers:

Administration & Public Works:

952-474-4755

Police Non-Emergency: 952-474-7555

24-Hour Police Dispatch: 763-525-6210

#### City of Deephaven Website:

[www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org)

**City Meetings:** Deephaven City Council normally meets twice a month on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The Park Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Residents are welcome to attend any or all of these meetings. Council meetings are also televised on Cable Channel 8. Channel 8 televised dates and times for City of Deephaven meetings, as well as meeting minutes, are all available on our City website [www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org)