

# Woodland News

Spring Issue, 2025



## Invasive Irritants: From Shrubs to Bugs

Springtime is the best time for gardening and getting your yard into shape for all of those fun summer activities. Springtime is also a great time to make sure your yard is healthy and free from invasive species. Buckthorn and emerald ash borer are nothing new to our community, but working at prevention now can greatly decrease their presence in years to come.

### Emerald Ash Borer

Native to eastern Russia, northern China, Japan, and Korea, emerald ash borer infests and kills both weak and healthy ash trees. Most of the emerald



ash borer life cycle takes place below the bark. Woodpeckers probe for larvae beneath the bark, which often helps identify infested trees. Signs of infestation include wilting leaves and bark falling off of the tree trunk or dead branches. Once symptoms have started to show, trees generally die within one to three years.

The City of Woodland actively manages dangerous or hazardous trees located on public property. Diseased trees are removed if they pose an imminent risk or danger to people or property. Owners of private property are encouraged to inspect, treat and / or remove diseased trees on their property, and springtime is a great time to start this process. For more information on emerald ash borer mitigation or the protection of ash trees, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab>.

### Bothersome Buckthorn

Buckthorn, now regarded as a noxious weed, was first introduced to the United States by Europeans as a popular hedging material. Buckthorn quickly became a nuisance plant, forming dense thickets in forests, yards, parks and along roadsides. Left unchecked, these thickets crowd out native plant species and displace native shrubs and natural habitat. The prevalence and spread of Buckthorn threatens wetlands, degrades wildlife habitat and is likely to continue since it has no “natural controls” like insects or disease that would otherwise curb its growth.

“Bothersome Buckthorn” Continued on Page 4

## Join our Quasiquicentennial 125 Year Celebration - Save the Date, June 7th at Thorpe Park!

The Deephaven City Council would like to cordially invite all Woodland residents to celebrate the 125th Birthday of the City of Deephaven! The City of Deephaven, in partnership with Thorpe Park Community Events and the Cottagewood Foundation, will host the Quasiquicentennial Celebration (125th Anniversary) on June 7th in Thorpe Park. The Events Committee has put together an amazing event full of activities including: Three live bands (Frankie Torres, Jacuzzi Puma and a surprise headliner and national act to be announced the day of the event); beer garden; kids petting zoo; food trucks, and many, many more activities and events.



The celebration will begin at 3 p.m., with shuttle buses running to and from Thorpe Park to designated pick-up and drop-off locations until 11 p.m. Stay tuned to the City’s website for additional information and announcements as we get closer to the date of the event. We hope you will join us at Thorpe Park, don’t forget to bring your neighbors and friends!

For more information, visit: [www.cityofdeephaven.org/events](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org/events)

# Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

Members of the Woodland City Council act as the Woodland Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board hears appeals from property owners who disagree with the Assessor's estimated market value of their property. The purpose of the Board of Appeal and Equalization is to provide a fair and objective forum for property owners to appeal their valuation or classification. The local board often serves as the first formal step in the appeals process for taxpayers. Typically, property owners who seek to challenge the assessment of their properties must first contact our City Assessor directly to begin that process prior to the Board of Equalization and Appeal meeting. Any changes to property valuations made by the Board must be substantiated by facts. Any value reductions must be justified because they have the effect of shifting the tax burden to other properties in the jurisdiction. Further, any changes made by the Board must meet statutory guidelines, including those provided in Minnesota Statute §274.014.



**Michael Smerdon, SAMA**  
Principal Residential Appraiser  
Hennepin County Assessor's Office  
Michael.Smerdon@hennepin.us  
Office: (612) 596-1362  
Cell: (612) 267-4480

If you believe the estimated market valuation of your property is incorrect, please contact Michael Smerdon, Hennepin County Property Appraiser, to discuss your thoughts and concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with Mr. Smerdon, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board will review the estimated market valuation of your property and may make corrections if warranted. Generally, a property owner must appeal to the Local Board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Additionally, a property owner can appeal decisions made by the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization as well. This year, the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodland City Hall: 20225 Cottagewood Road, Deephaven, Minnesota 55331.

## Woodland City Meeting Calendar

The City of Woodland observes Summer Hours beginning May 27, and ending September 1, 2025. City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) meeting will be held on Monday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. The Woodland City Council meets Mondays at 6:00 p.m. on April 14th, May 12th, and June 9th at Woodland City Hall.

The Woodland City Council serves as the Planning Commission. Any Planning or Zoning matters are set on as agenda items at regular Woodland City Council meetings.

### APRIL

### 2025 MAY

### 2025 JUNE

### 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. LBAE	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30				

# CodeRED Community Emergency Management System



The Woodland City Council approved the purchase of the CodeRed Emergency Communication System at the March 10, 2025 City Council Meeting. CodeRED is a web based system which will allow us the ability to reach a large number of citizens in a very short period of time. The system uses the latest in geographically based notification technology making the system both precise in communications and very easy to use. The CodeRED system will serve as the backbone of our emergency planning and communications outreach to the community. The system sends telephone calls, text messages, emails and posts to on-line formats to notify residents of emergency situations that require immediate action.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up and / or create a CodeRED account so you can be contacted by the desired means that work best for you. Through the account set-up process, you can add or remove phone numbers and email addresses to cater the system to your preferred means of communication. To sign up for CodeRED, please scan the QR code, or visit the City's website for more information and a link to sign-up. Please contact Deephaven / Woodland Chief of Police, Cory Johnson, with any questions you may have: coryj@deephavenpolice.com | (952) 358-9926.



## Boating Season is Nearly Here!

### TOP 5 DNR BOATING SAFETY TIPS

- Wear your life jacket and make sure children wear theirs.
- Stay sober. Booze and boating don't mix. Alcohol is the #1 factor in boating fatalities.
- Tell a friend. Tell someone where you are headed and when you will be back. If you are not back, they should call 911.
- Be weather aware. Don't let a storm surprise you; delay your trip or head to shore. Go slow in rough water, avoid capsizing.
- Boat smart. Take a boating safety course. Know your boat;
- stay alert while scanning for dangers; stay seated and low in the boat to prevent falls overboard.



## Stormwater Management: Protecting the Water in Minnesota's 10,000 Lakes

Stormwater is the water that runs off buildings, streets, sidewalks, and parking lots – anywhere it is unable to soak into the ground after rain and snowmelt. Storm sewer inlets are connected and discharge into nearby waterways, instead of to the sanitary sewer, which discharges to a wastewater treatment plant. If not well-managed, stormwater can contaminate aquatic habitats and kill plants, fish, and animals in our local water bodies. Managing stormwater is crucial to environmental and community health. Here's how you can help:

- Keep litter and debris, including grass clippings, away from storm drains and do not pour household chemicals on the ground or into the storm drains.
- Replant bare lawn spots to prevent soil erosion.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Don't overwater or overfertilize your lawn.
- Use a rain barrel; plant a rain garden or native plants.

Another aspect of managing our stormwater is preventing illicit discharges, which are unlawful acts of disposing, dumping, spilling, emitting, or other discharge of any substance other than stormwater into our stormwater drainage system, or directly into streams or lakes. As a community member, you play a key role in identifying and reducing illicit discharges in our City.



# Deephaven

June 7, 2025  
Thorpe Park

## 125th Anniversary Celebration!

- **Amazing Live Music!** Frankie Torres, Jacuzzi Puma, and a Surprise National Recording Artist will be announced at the event
- **Food Trucks, Beer Gardens and More!**
- **Family Fun!** Petting Zoo, Facepainting, Kids DJ and many more family-friendly activities
- **Community Spirit!** Connect with neighbors and friends in celebration of our shared history

Visit the City's Website, more details to follow:

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

Brought to you by: Thorpe Park Community Events, the Cottagewood Foundation and the City of Deephaven

## “Bothersome Buckthorn” Continued

Buckthorn quickly became a nuisance plant, forming dense thickets in forests, yards, parks and along roadsides. Left unchecked, these thickets crowd out native plant species and displace native shrubs and natural habitat. The prevalence and spread of Buckthorn threatens wetlands, degrades wildlife habitat and is likely to continue since it has no “natural controls” like insects or disease that would otherwise curb its growth.

Treating or removing Buckthorn can be difficult and often becomes a multi-year commitment. Treating a small outcropping of Buckthorn may be as easy as pulling seedlings and regularly checking to ensure new plants do not take root each spring. For larger buckthorn infestations, removal of all of the berry producing Buckthorn is the first and most important step. From there, Buckthorn should be removed in sections by digging up the roots or cutting and treating the base. It is important to continue to remove new growth each year until the Buckthorn is eradicated from the property or area. Local resident, Jim Dowds, has been volunteering and actively working to remove Buckthorn in Woodland. If you would like to help in these volunteer efforts, please reach out to City Staff and we will help connect you with Mr. Dowds to support this opportunity.



For more information on Buckthorn mitigation or removal, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/control.html>



Your yard and the nearest lake, stream, or wetland are connected by the nearest storm drain or ditch, so the actions you take on your property impact local bodies of water. Stormwater runoff carries along many pollutants, but you can help reduce pollution (and save money) by following a few simple steps:

**Water wisely** – If your lawn needs water, do it in the morning when it’s cooler to avoid evaporation and make sure to aim sprinklers so they don’t water hard surfaces. Lawns typically only need one inch of water per week, so if it rains, you can skip the watering.

**Mow three inches or higher** – This makes your lawn thicker, healthier, and more resistant to weeds, drought and erosion.

**Leave grass clippings on lawn** – This puts the same amount of nutrients back into your grass as one application of fertilizer. If you don’t want them on your lawn, compost them. Be sure to sweep up any clippings that blow onto the street so they don’t run into the lake.

**Pick up pet waste regularly** – In addition to preventing lawn burns, regular pick-up keeps bacteria from running off into storm drains and local waters.

Following these tips will help keep your lawn healthy while also keeping our waters clean and safe this summer.

Last year, the Woodland City Council established regulations for the outdoor storage of recreational equipment. This includes camper trailers, motor homes, open trailers, snowmobiles, travel trailers, and buildings for ice fishing. No recreational equipment is allowed be stored in the front yard (or rear yards for lots abutting lakeshore) of a property, and any stored recreational equipment must be setback a minimum of five feet from side and rear property lines.



The City’s Septic Inspector will be reviewing the septic systems for half of Woodland in July. Please watch for a letter from the City closer to the inspection date. If you have any questions related to Planning or Zoning in the City of Woodland, please call Pat Smith, Planning Director, at (952) 358-9938, or by email at: [pat@cityofdeephaven.org](mailto:pat@cityofdeephaven.org).



## Woodland City Code Amendments and Policy Changes

### Council Meeting Time Change to 6:00 p.m.

The Woodland City Council began a discussion regarding the meeting time of the City Council in December of 2024. At the direction of the Council, Staff posted a meeting time survey on the City’s website and included an article on the potential time change on the front page of the Woodland Winter Newsletter. Pursuant to the survey, 6 p.m. presented the best available time for meeting attendance. Based upon the survey, discussions and related information, the Council approved a resolution formally changing the Woodland City Council meeting start time to 6:00 p.m. beginning with the Monday, April 14th Council Meeting.

### Police and Fire Call Billing

The City Council also reviewed the billing of fire and police service calls at the December City Council Meeting. The existing ordinance required all fire calls to be billed to the address from which the call was originated. The ordinance related to police required billing for false alarm calls, but did not have an associated fee for emergency service calls. Seeking alignment, the Council amended both ordinances to only authorize billing for multiple false alarm calls in a calendar year. This amendment corrected the inequity of residents being billed for emergency calls, especially those that benefit other people or property. A copy of the new ordinances, §430.02 and §445.02, are available on the City’s website: <https://woodlandmn.org/>

### Plumber and Gas Fitter Licensing

The Council discussed licensing plumbers and gas fitters at the November 2024 meeting, noting that the City’s licensing process was as unduly burdensome and detrimental to both builders and residents. Gas fitters and plumbers are already licensed to a greater level by the State of Minnesota, so requiring a secondary license for Woodland was duplicative and created additional expense and delay on residents contracting for those services. As such, the Council amended §313 and §314 rescinding the local licensing requirement but continued the required proof of State licensing and insurance coverage.

## Legislative Update and Action Alert

The Minnesota Legislature is considering a variety of legislative actions that would limit the local decision-making authority of individual cities. The following is a list of the bills that would significantly restrict City zoning and land use authority:

- SF 2229 / HF 1987 (“Minnesota Starter Home Act”)
- SF 2231 / HF 2140 (“More Homes Right Places Act”)
- SF 2286 / HF 2018 (“Transforming Main Street Act”)
- SF 1268 / HF 1309 (“People Over Parking Act”)

These bills limit City decision-making on land use and zoning authorities while imposing state mandates on cities for higher density development. Woodland is working with 14 other Lake Minnetonka cities and the League of MN Cities to amend or rescind the proposed legislation, including passing a formal resolution in opposition of the legislation.

Residents can learn more details by visiting [leg.mn.gov](http://leg.mn.gov) where you can also enroll in "MyBills" for updates on the bills you are concerned about. Residents can also contact their elected State Officials:

**Senator Ann M. Johnson Stewart | District 45**  
[sen.ann.johnson.stewart@senate.mn](mailto:sen.ann.johnson.stewart@senate.mn)  
651-296-9261

**Representative Patty Acomb | District 45B**  
[rep.patty.acomb@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.patty.acomb@house.mn.gov)  
651-296-9934





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**20225 Cottagewood Road**  
**Deephaven, MN 55331**  
**(952) 474-4755**

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## Woodland City Council

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### Tom Newberry

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### Dave Daniels

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### Juan Vazquez

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### Hank Zucker

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### Woodland City Hall

20225 Cottagewood Road  
Deephaven, MN 55331

### City Hall Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
www.woodlandmn.org  
(952) 474-4755

### City Council Meetings

2nd Mondays, 6 p.m.  
Residents always welcome!  
Agendas & minutes on website

### Mayor

Vince Suerth (2028)

### Council Members

Dave Daniels (2026)  
Tom Newberry (2028)  
Juan Vazquez (2028)  
Hank Zucker (2026)

### Staff Contacts:

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KimberlyL@cityofdeephaven.org

#### Building Permit Clerk

Diane Schwalbe  
DianeS@cityofdeephaven.org

### Utility Billing & Marina Clerk

Madison Fiecke  
MadisonF@cityofdeephaven.org

### Deephaven Police Department

911 All Emergencies  
952-258-5321 Non-Emergency  
763-525-6210 After Hours  
952-474-7555 Office

### Republic Recycling Services

Email for local Customer Service  
woodlandCS@republicservices.com

