

Woodland News

Summer Issue, 2026



One Root at a Time: Buckthorn Bustin' in Woodland

If you've driven through Woodland lately, you have likely noticed that things are looking a little more open, cleaner, and brighter these days. There's a good reason for that. The fight against one of Minnesota's most stubborn invasive species, Buckthorn, is making a visible difference throughout our community.

In This Issue

Septic System Ordinance	Page 2
2026 Election Information	Page 4
New Woodland Signs	Page 5
Trees in Right-of-Way	Page 6
City Staff Contacts	Page 8



Woodland Resident, Jim Dowds

Last fall, we shared the story of longtime Woodland resident, Jim Dowds, and the incredible Buckthorn Bustin' volunteer work he had already done removing Buckthorn from City rights-of-way and other public spaces. At that time, Jim had cleared an impressive 65,000 square feet of this invasive nuisance. And by being "cleared," Mr. Dowds isn't just cutting it down and hauling it away; he is pulling what he can out by the roots and taking other measures to keep it from regrowing again in the future.

So far this season, Jim has cleared and removed approximately 45,000 of additional square feet of Buckthorn. His goal? A staggering target of 60,000 square feet by the end of the season. For reference and comparison, that is about 1.4 acres or slightly larger than a football field (including the endzones). Jim is not only cutting it out but also hauling it away and burning the material to help prevent it from spreading further.

This year's main focus areas include the north side of Breezy Heights Road, the entrance into the Maplewood area, and sections of Maplewood Road. He has also been clearing back corners and harder-to-see areas to improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians enjoying Woodland's beautiful streets and wooded surroundings.

When asked about the areas he cleared last year, Jim shared that he has not noticed any regrowth. That said, buckthorn removal takes continued care. It's not as simple as cutting it once and walking away, stumps and roots need to be treated to help keep it from coming back. When staff asked what keeps him motivated, Jim's answer was simple: "I live here, and I enjoy watching the new tree growth and opening up the area."

Continued on Page 4

Construction Projects About... All Around

As Minnesotans, we know summertime is often synonymous with "construction-time." This summer will prove to be no different than most, as construction projects seem to surround Woodland this year.

In terms of local projects and impacts, the Midco Communication project is bringing fiber internet service and access to all of our properties here in Woodland. This service, long overdue for our community, involves boring directional fiber internet lines in the rights of way alongside our roadways. This process typically does not impact traffic or roadways, but it can create temporary traffic delays and disturb the grassy areas alongside our roadways. This project is not a City project, so we do not know the timing, method or process that will be employed by Midco Communications as they install their fiber internet lines. More information on the Woodland project can be found on the Midco project website: <https://midco.com/about/service-areas/minnesota/woodland/>. If you have questions or concerns related to this project, you can contact Midco project manager Andy Wirth: andy.wirth@midco.com; (888) 425-1475.

Continued on Page 2

Septic System Ordinance Update: Important Information for Residents

The City of Woodland has updated its Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) ordinance to help protect our lakes, groundwater, and public health. This ordinance applies to properties served by private septic systems and is intended to ensure systems are functioning properly and safely.



A septic system compliance inspection is now required when:

- A home is being sold; or
- An addition is being built onto a home; or
- A bedroom is being added; or
- A Variance request is submitted for a property; or
- The City receives information that a septic system may be failing or otherwise creating a health concern.

In situations where the inspection notes issues that are in need of repair, and when the necessary repairs cannot be completed immediately, the ordinance provides an option of depositing an escrow to allow the sale to proceed while the required work is scheduled to be completed within an allowable timeframe.

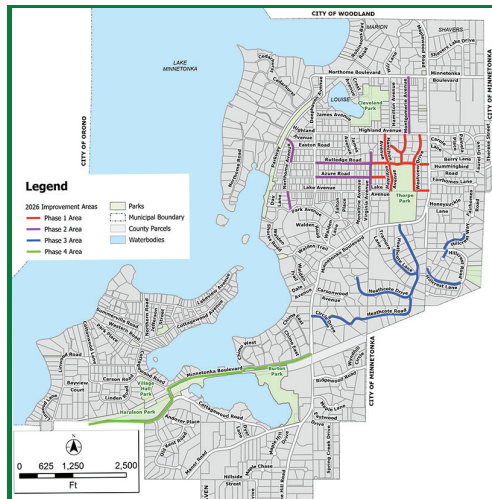
Routine maintenance, inspections, and pumping remain the best ways to extend the life of your septic system and avoid unexpected problems. If you have questions about the updated ordinance or whether it applies to your property, please contact City Planner, Pat Smith, with any questions you may have: pat@deephaven.gov; (952) 474-4755.

NOTICE
PLEASE
DRIVE
SAFELY

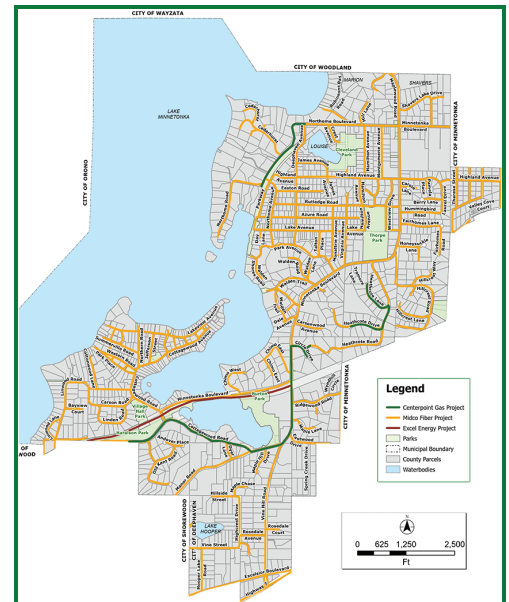
Summer is finally here, which means everyone is getting out to take advantage of the sunshine. Please help keep everyone safe this summer by paying close attention to posted speed limits and slowing down while driving. Be especially cautious near corners, intersections, construction areas, and areas where visibility may be limited, as pedestrians or cyclists can appear quickly. A few extra seconds of caution can make a big difference. Thank you for doing your part to help keep Woodland safe and enjoyable for everyone this season.

Construction Projects Abound... Continued

Another project in our area this summer is the continuation of the CenterPoint Energy natural gas main replacement project. This project will happen in Deephaven but will impact parts of Minnetonka Boulevard and Vine Hill Road that may cause some commuting delays and, at times, detours for our residents. Construction on this project will start this month and will conclude sometime in October or November of this year. For questions related to this project, you can contact CenterPoint Energy project manager Hailey Torborg: hailey.torborg@centerpointenergy.com; (612) 321-4510.



The other major project that we will need to navigate this summer is the 2026 Deephaven Street Project. This project will address long-overdue road repairs over five miles of the City's roadways. Most of this project should not impact Woodland residents outside of the repairs planned for late summer on Minnetonka Boulevard. This phase of the project does not have a dedicated start date but will likely begin in August or September and will last for approximately six weeks. The roadway will remain open for much of this project, but the road may shrink to one lane at times causing delays. For questions related to this project, you can contact Project Engineer, Nick Olson: Nicholas.olson@stantec.com; (952) 262-6163.



While these projects may create headaches and delays this summer, the end result will be the opportunity for improved internet connectivity and better passable roadways as we traverse around the area. All projects are anticipated to be completed by October 31st, so fingers crossed that we will truly have a Happy Halloween.

Certain items should NEVER be flushed down the toilet as they cause problems with the septic sewer system . The damage can be extensive and can cause unintended environmental damage, sewer backups, and a higher sewer bill for residents. Avoid flushing the following “Dirty Dozen”:

- # Lawn Care Tips For Summer



TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS.



THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH!



Organics recycling is a great way to reduce what you throw away and put it to better use as compost. About 25% of household trash is organic material like food, paper towels, or certified compostable products. The organics drop-off container is located at 20260 Minnetonka Blvd (Haralson Park, at the end of the parking lot). It is available 24 hours a day and equipped with a combination padlock to prevent illegal dumping. To sign up, contact us at info@deephaven.gov and we'll send you a registration email with more information.

Team up to fight food waste with the Stop Food Waste Challenge this August! The average family of four spends more than \$2,500 on food that goes to waste every year. The challenge is a month-long effort starting August 1 to help you notice when you are wasting food, commit to actions that will have the greatest impact in your household, save money, fight climate change, provide for your family, improve your cooking skills, connect with helpful resources, and receive support and motivation along the way. Signup opens July 1—find out more at stopfoodwaste.ecochallenge.org.

stop
food waste
challenge

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

Buckthorn Bustin'... Continued

There is still more work ahead, with future focus areas including the East Circle, West Circle, and Gale Road areas. But every cleared section makes a difference. Areas once crowded with invasive brush are opening up, allowing healthier native trees, more sunlight, and a more welcoming natural landscape.

Both Dowds and Mayor Vince Suerth have also noticed that more homeowners are starting to remove buckthorn from their own yards. That community effort is a huge part of the solution. Buckthorn spreads when birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds through their droppings, so every property that joins the effort helps slow its spread throughout Woodland and strengthens the overall cleanup effort.

One roadside section, one yard, and one root at a time, Woodland is making room for healthy maples, oaks, and the natural beauty that makes our City so special.



2026 Election Information for Woodland Residents

The City of Woodland will have two Council Member positions on the ballot this year. These are both four-year terms and will begin after the swearing-in ceremony held at the first Council Meeting in January, 2027. The candidate filing period opens at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and closes Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Candidates must file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the City Clerk during the official filing period and pay a filing fee of \$2 to be included on the ballot. Residents interested in serving on the City Council are encouraged to consider filing for office. You can contact City staff with any questions you may have during normal business hours at Deephaven / Woodland City Hall: 20225 Cottagewood Road, Deephaven, Minnesota 55331.



In other election news, absentee voting for the local, state and federal elections begins June 26, 2026; absentee/early voting for Woodland residents will take place at Deephaven / Woodland City Hall: 20225 Woodland residents will vote this year for both the Primary Election (Tuesday, August 11, 2026) and the General Election (Tuesday, November 3, 2026) at our new Polling Place, Calvary Church: 18360 Minnetonka Boulevard, Deephaven, Minnesota 55331.

This year, the General Election will consist of voting for the Federal and State offices for the United States Senate, United States Representatives, Minnesota Governor & Lieutenant Governor, Minnesota Secretary of State, Minnesota State Auditor, Minnesota Attorney General, Minnesota Senators, Minnesota Representatives and Judicial Seats. More more information on the Federal, State and Local Elections, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website:

www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/.



Tour de Tonka, Saturday, August 1, 2026

Minnetonka Community Education invites cyclists and volunteers to join the 21st annual Tour de Tonka bike ride on Saturday, August 1st, 2026. This ride has become a staple of the west metro community, growing from 819 riders in its inaugural year of 2006 to nearly 3,500 riders annually. Riders from more than 166 Minnesota cities, 73 counties and 42 states have participated in the event. Countless riders from across the state tell us each year that Tour de Tonka is Minnesota's Ride.

Tour de Tonka partners with the ICA Food Shelf to give participants an opportunity to make an impact with their ride. A portion of each rider's registration fee is donated to the ICA. Since 2006, Tour de Tonka has raised over \$83,000 to support the ICA. Riders can also donate money or non-perishable food items on or before the day of the ride. Remaining proceeds support Minnetonka Community Youth Education and Early Childhood Programs.

<https://www.bikemn.org/events/tour-de-tonka-2026/>.

New City Entrance Signs Coming to Woodland

Earlier this spring, the Woodland City Council reviewed proposals from three different sign companies for the replacement of the City's entrance signs. After careful consideration, the Council selected Sky Custom Signs & Graphics to design and install two new City signs at a cost of \$7,700. The new signs are being built to last. They will be made from durable aluminum with reflective materials for increased visibility, protective anti-graffiti coating, and reinforced supports. The signs will be mounted on heavy-duty aluminum posts set in concrete footings and are expected to have a structural lifespan of more than 25 years, with the reflective finish remaining effective for 15 to 20 years.



(Repurposed Council Chambers Sign)

As part of this project, one of the City's original signs had been removed due to its deteriorating condition. Rather than discarding it, Mayor Vince Suerth took on the task of completely refurbishing the sign. He repaired damaged areas, patched holes, repainted the entire sign, and built a custom stand for display. Thanks to his efforts, the fully restored sign now has a new home in the Council Chambers, where it will be displayed during City Council meetings and continue to represent Woodland's history for years to come.

The City would like to thank Mayor Suerth for donating his time and talents to restore the sign. His work has preserved an important piece of Woodland's history while giving the sign a new purpose for future generations to enjoy.

E-bikes and Lawful Operation, Please Ride Safely

Electric bicycles, or “E-bikes,” have been wildly popular over the past few years and continue to be the latest transportation trend in the Minnetonka Lakes area. E-bikes are available for purchase in many local shops and are legal for use on City streets, bike lanes, bike routes, trails and wherever else normal bicycles are allowed. Some types of electric bicycles, however, are built to exceed the limits set by Minnesota Statute and are not allowed to be operated in the same areas – or in the same manner – as E-bikes. Regardless of type or style, it is unlawful for anyone under the age of 15 to operate an E-bike on public rights of way in Minnesota.

There are three “classes” of E-bikes, all of which have different requirements and regulations. Class 1 E-bikes have to be pedaled in order to activate any assistance from the motor and have an assisted top speed of 20 miles per hour or less. Class 2 E-bikes can be used either by pedaling or using the throttle control, the throttle function cannot exceed a speed greater than 20 miles per hour. Class 3 E-bikes are similar to Class 1 E-bikes in that they need to be pedaled to activate motor assistance.

Unlike Class 1, Class 3 E-bikes are equipped with a speedometer and have a maximum speed of 28 miles per hour.

EBIKE CLASS	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
EBIKE			
MAXIMUM MOTOR SPEED (MPH)	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH
EQUIPPED WITH A MOTOR	✓	✓	✓
THROTTLE COMES STANDARD	✗	✓	✗



Looking beyond regulations and classifications, the safe operation of any bicycle – and especially an E-bike – is of critical importance to our community. Regardless of the speed or class of E-bike, unsafe or risky operation is directly related to numerous accidents along the City’s roadways and trails. The Deephaven Police Department routinely receives calls about the reckless or hazardous operation of E-bikes, and all too often they are called to respond to an accident where a pedestrian has been struck by an E-bike while walking along a local roadway or trail. While E-bikes can be fast, fun and exhilarating, it is important to always operate them in a safe and responsible manner. To combat reckless cycling, the Deephaven Police actively stop people improperly operating E-bikes in an unsafe manner. The first encounter with our officers is

typically used as an opportunity to educate the operator about the importance of safe behavior and proper cycling conduct, often accompanied by a call to the parents of a juvenile unsafely operating an E-bike. The second instance of unlawful E-bike operation usually results in a citation and can result in the impoundment of the E-bike.

Summertime is one of the best times of the year in Woodland, and getting out and enjoying the lakes is what life in Woodland is all about. If you are out riding around the City’s streets or trails, please remember to ride under control and help keep our community bike-friendly and safe.



Maintaining Trees in the Right of Way

As a reminder to Woodland residents, the City Ordinance 900.20 – Tree Removal and Vegetation Maintenance, Subdivision 8 – requires that all landscaping within the public right-of-way be maintained by the abutting property owner. This includes regular upkeep, trimming, and removal of any hazardous vegetation. If a tree or limb within the right-of-way poses a danger to the public, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to address it promptly. This ordinance helps ensure clear visibility, safe travel, and well-maintained neighborhoods throughout Woodland.

In the event of a fallen tree or hazardous limb, residents should not contact Shorewood Tree directly. Instead, please call City Hall at 952-474-4755 or the Deephaven Police Department 952-474-7555 Ex: 4 after hours. In an emergency, or if out of town, residents can call Hennepin County Dispatch directly at (952) 258-5321. Staff will assess the situation and coordinate appropriate response efforts.

We also want to recognize the efforts of resident Jim Dowds, who recently led a buckthorn removal project in various areas across Woodland. Buckthorn is an aggressive, invasive shrub/tree that quickly overtakes native vegetation and reduces biodiversity. Jim cleared large patches of City right-of-way, blind corners, and other overgrown areas, helping to restore healthier tree growth and improve public safety. We thank Jim for his dedication and remind all residents that controlling buckthorn is an ongoing priority for the City.

Working together, we can continue to protect Woodland's natural beauty and keep our streets and walkways safe for everyone.

Summer Hours

May 25 to September 8

Monday to Thursday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday
and Holidays.

City Hall Hours and Closures

Regular Hours

Monday to Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday
and Holidays.

Early Voting Begins

Friday, June 26
Friday, September 18

***Council Meetings start at 6 p.m.**

Weekend Voting:

Saturday, August 8
Saturday, October 24
Saturday, October 31
Sunday, November 1

JUNE 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Council Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Early Voting Begins	27
28	29	30				

JULY 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 City Hall Closed	4 4TH OF JULY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	Council Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Saturday Voting 9-3
9	Council Meeting	11 Primary Election	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	LABOR Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	Council Meeting	15	16	17	18 Early Voting Starts	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Council Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Saturday Voting 9-3
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Saturday Voting 9-3

NOVEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sunday Voting 9-3	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5	6	7
8	Council Meeting	10 VETERANS DAY	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 City Hall Closed	28
29	30					

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.

Backyard Fires and Grill Nights Keep Safety in the Mix

Summertime is the perfect time for backyard cookouts, s'mores, and relaxing evenings around the fire. As you enjoy the season, please remember to keep safety as a part of your plan. Always keep grills and recreational fires attended and only have fires when weather \ conditions are safe. Be sure grills and fire pits are placed a safe distance from homes, decks, trees, and anything else that could catch fire. When the evening winds down, make sure the fire is completely out before heading inside.

It is also a great idea to give the local fire department a quick heads-up if you are planning a recreational fire, especially if smoke or flames may be visible in the area. A simple call can help prevent unnecessary concern and keep everyone informed.



Enjoy the season, stay safe, and thank you for helping keep Woodland a wonderful and safe place to call home.

Storm Safety Tips At Home and on the Lake

Spring and summer weather in Minnesota can change quickly, and storms often move in with little warning. Heavy rain, lightning, strong winds, hail, and sudden temperature changes can create unsafe conditions both at home and on the water. Taking a few simple steps ahead of time can help keep your family safe.

At Home

Before storms arrive, secure patio furniture, umbrellas, garbage cans, and other loose outdoor items that could blow around in strong winds. Charge phones and devices, and keep flashlights, batteries, and a basic emergency kit in an easy-to-find location. If severe weather warnings are issued, move indoors and know the safest place in your home to take shelter, such as a basement or an interior room away from windows. After the storm passes, use caution around fallen branches, debris, and standing water. Always stay away from downed power lines and report hazards when needed.

On the Lake

Storms can develop quickly on the lake, so checking the forecast before leaving the dock is always a smart first step. Keep an eye on the sky while boating and watch for dark clouds, changing winds, or distant thunder. If weather begins to turn, head to shore immediately and do not wait for rain to begin.

Make sure life jackets are available for everyone on board, and keep your phone charged in case of emergency. Secure loose gear in the boat and slow down when visibility is reduced or waters become rough.

Stay Prepared

Weather can change fast, but being prepared can help you respond quickly and safely. A little planning goes a long way.

Stay safe and enjoy the season in Woodland & on the beautiful Lake Minnetonka!





City of Woodland
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331
(952) 474-4755

Presorted
First Class
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 168-A

Woodland City Council

Mayor Vince Suerth

vsuerth@cityofwoodlandmn.gov

Tom Newberry

tnewberry@cityofwoodlandmn.gov

Dave Daniels

ddaniels@cityofwoodlandmn.gov

Juan Vazquez

jvazquez@citywoodlandmn.gov

Hank Zucker

hzucker@citywoodlandmn.gov



Woodland City Hall

20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

City Hall Hours:

www.cityofwoodlandmn.gov
(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:

City Administrator

Dan Madsen
Danm@deephaven.gov

Finance Clerk

Andrew Keller
Andrewk@deephaven.gov

Planning & Zoning Director

Pat Smith
Pat@deephaven.gov

City Clerk

Kimberly Lenarz-Greenwaldt
Kimberlyl@deephaven.gov

Building Permit Clerk

Maria Borell
Mariab@deephaven.gov

Utility Billing & Marina Clerk

Madison Fiecke
Madisonf@deephaven.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

