



ESSENTIAL DATES

Recycling Pickup Dates

December 2, 16, 30

January 13, 27

February 10, 24

December 12, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Truth in Taxation

Final budget approval

Zoning ordinances

December 24 and 31

City Hall closed

Christmas Trees

Make arrangements with your garbage service to pickup trees. To avoid plowing problems, do not leave trees at the street, except for pickup day.

January 10, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Appointments

Annual Calendar

January 17

City Hall closed

February 14, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

2021 Audit Presentation

February 21

City Hall closed

Check the website for public hearings or, better yet, sign up for automatic notifications!

Snow-draped grasses and branches in Maplewoods.

Woodland News

December - February | Winter 2021-2022

2021 Street Improvement Project Complete

A hearty thanks for the patience, neighborliness, and grace that persevered through the non-stop roadwork this summer. The Centerpoint work followed immediately by city-wide road repaving was a lot to bear, yet both were major infrastructure improvements for the City.

There is still restoration work to be completed, but it needs to wait until spring, when the grass seed has better odds.

Mailboxes

With new streets, do you need a new mailbox? Help with its installation? Or a whole new cedar stand? Contact the City Clerk at 952-358-9936 or sara@woodlandmn.org.

Keeping the Woods in Woodland

It is unlawful to cut any tree with a diameter of 6-inches or more. A **Vegetation Alteration Permit** must be obtained from City Hall before any clearing or cutting. Please allow 7-10 days for permit approval before beginning any work.

Tree service companies are required to be licensed to work in Woodland. A list of currently licensed providers can be found on the website, under Residents and Protecting Lakes and Trees.

Trees removed must be replaced, somewhere on the property. Replacement trees must be the same type (deciduous or conifer) as those removed and at least 3-inch diameter for deciduous or at least 7-feet tall for conifers.

Think Twice Before Cutting

Most trees have lived in Woodland longer than we will. A 6-inch maple is 30 years old. Before removing a tree, please take time to consider how long it's lived where it is.

Determining Tree Age = Diameter x Growth Factor

1. Measure the tree's circumference at 4.5-feet above the ground.
2. Multiply the circumference by pi (3.142) to get the diameter.
3. Multiply the diameter by the growth factor below.

2	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	7
Cottonwood	Silver Maple	River Birch	Green Ash	Red Maple	Sugar Maple	Hickory
	Pin Oak		Red Oak	Black Walnut	White Birch	Ironwood
	Basswood		American Elm		White Oak	Dogwood

We're curious. What's the oldest tree on your property?

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall (*Deephaven & Woodland*)
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

City Hall Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Labor Day to Memorial Day

www.woodlandmn.org

City Clerk

Sara Skalle
952-358-9936
sara@woodlandmn.org
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-Th

Mayor

Vince Suerth

Council Members

Dave Daniels
John Massie
Tom Newberry
Juan Vazquez

City Council Meetings

2nd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Residents always welcome!
Agendas & minutes on website

Deephaven Police Department

952-474-7555 Non-emergency
763-525-6210 After Hours

Wayzata Fire Department

952-404-5337 Non-emergency

Republic Recycling Services

Send an email to
woodlandcs@republicservices.com

Planning Director

Pat Smith
952-358-9938

Building Permits

Teresa Pendleton
952-358-9935

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)

Denny Newell, Board Member

Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC)

Mike Jilek, Representative



Living with Wildlife: Owls

On a calm winter's night, you will hear one or more of the owl species that we are lucky to have in Woodland.

Classic hooting is most likely the Great Horned Owl or Barred Owl, possibly the Long-Eared Owl if the hoots are three seconds apart. Eerie screeches or screams may be the Barred, Barn, or Great Horned. And creaking trills or purrs will be the Barn or Eastern Screech Owl. Recordings of these notable vocalizations may be found on the National Audubon Society website. The Snowy Owl, when it dips this far south, is mostly silent.

Owls are solitary, nocturnal birds of prey with highly developed physical traits.

- Their large forward-facing eyes are immobile, giving owls keen depth perception and binocular vision. They must turn their heads to change their view and with 14 specialized neck vertebrae (humans and even giraffes have only 7) they can rotate their heads 270-degrees.
- Asymmetrical ears enable owls to pinpoint the location of prey. The time difference between sound entering the ears is about 30 milliseconds (less than one-third of a blink of an eye). The owl adjusts its head until the sound synchronizes, alters course and strikes.
- Broad, rounded wings carry the hunters, but it is the tiny comb-like fimbriae, or fringe, along the flight feather edges that enable them to fly without a sound.

As carnivores, owls dine on a diet of insects, small rodents, rabbits, and sometimes fish, though water can be dangerous for them since their feathers are not waterproof.

The prevalence of owls in Woodland is very special. Their conversations fill the evenings and the sight of them is grand. Don't forget to look up while on a winter walk — years ago I was lucky to spot a huge Snowy Owl silently sitting on a branch over Breezy Point Road. It took my breath away and created a lasting, wonderful memory.

Woodland's lighting ordinance will help owls continue to thrive here. Artificial lights at night impact owls' food supply because rodents are more wary venturing out in the light. Lights eliminate the owls' element of surprise, decreasing their hunting efficiency. By turning some lights off at night we help support the natural ecosystem and keep owls in Woodland.

Sources include the National Audubon Society and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



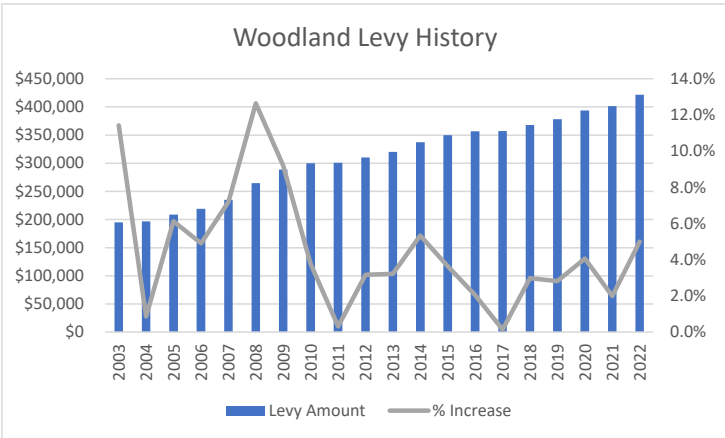
Top left is the Great Horned Owl with its prominent ear tufts, above left is the distinctive face of the Barn Owl, and above right the smaller Barred Owl with its yellow beak and vertical bar pattern in its feathers.

As with most wildlife, leave them alone and they will leave you alone. If you do have an issue, contact the Deephaven Police Department at 952-474-7555.

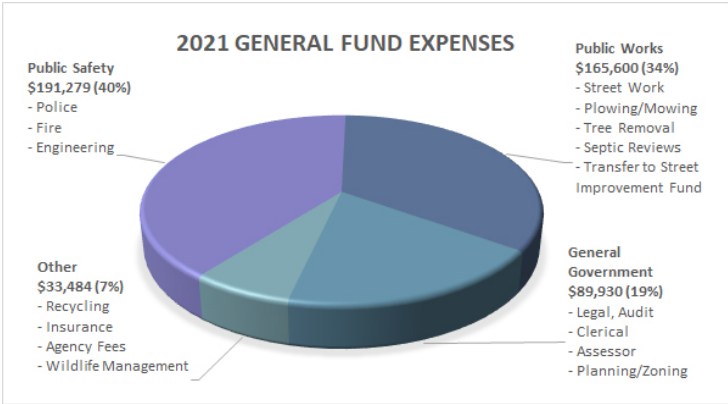
2022 General Fund Budget

The 2022 General Fund Budget will be finalized at the December Council Meeting. All residents are invited to attend.

At this time, the budget includes a 5 percent levy increase to cover inflation and expenses. That equates to a \$20,079 increase to a total levy of \$421,665. The graph below shows how the levy has changed over the last 20 years, in total amount (vertical bars) and percentage change (grey line). The average increase is 4 percent.



The story on the expense side hasn't changed much. While total dollars have incrementally increased, the aggregate percentage in each expense category (slice of the pie) is the same as last year. And the financial priority of Public Safety and Public Works services remains the same. The City will be helping to fund the addition of one officer to the Deephaven Police Force in 2022.



The 2021 Street Improvement Project costs are coming in, as projected, right around \$550,000, from the initial geotechnical borings through restoration. The project has been funded by a \$445,000 bond and \$100,000 cash from the Street Improvement Fund. The annual bond payment will be under \$50,000 for 10 years, an amount that fits well within the budget with room to also save for future road maintenance.

This is possible by keeping the cost of governing low through our partnership with the City of Deephaven, the generous service of our City Council, and good financial management.

The City of Woodland is well positioned for the future.

Truth in Taxation

You are invited to the December 13 Council Meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall to learn more about the 2022 Budget.



Zoning Ordinance Update

The Council recently revised the zoning ordinance to clarify the definition of an "accessory structure" and the limits of accessory structures.

Previously, anything under or attached to the ground or attached to the house was considered an accessory structure, and there was a limit of three accessory structures per residential lot. Thus, Woodland lots were limited to any three of the following: flag pole, air conditioning unit, generators, swimming pool, driveways, patios, decks, detached garages, sheds, boat houses, gazebos, fences, retaining walls, etc.

The new ordinance limits the number of accessory buildings to three (boat houses, sheds, detached garages and guest houses) but removes the limit on other accessory structures (retaining walls, patios, fences, flag poles, driveways, etc.). The new ordinance also places noise limits on new air conditioning units and generators and requires a Conditional Use Permit review for air conditioning units and generators for houses with footprints over 4,000 square feet.

The City Council is also considering revising the non-conforming structure regulations to be consistent with state statutes.

Both ordinances will be reviewed at the December Council Meeting.

Polite Lights

As you decorate for the holiday season, remember to set timers to turn holiday lights off at or before 11 p.m.

In Woodland, all decorative lights must be extinguished between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. This includes architectural and landscape lighting as well as holiday lights.

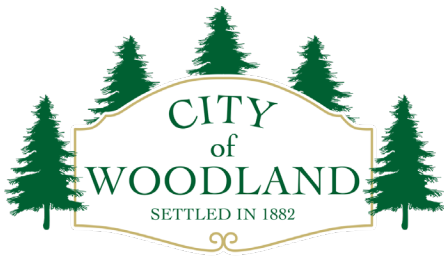
To appreciate your neighbor's point of view and minimize potential complaints to the City, walk the perimeter of your property, checking light sources and making adjustments to minimize lights shining across your property line. Flood lights must be shielded and downward facing.

Lights by doors, sidewalks and driveways, address lights, and lights illuminating the U.S. flag are exempt and may be left on all night.

The City's lighting ordinance may be found at woodlandmn.org under Government > Ordinances. Then go to Chapter 11, Section 23 (page 33).



**Merry and bright,
until 11 at night**



Woodland City Hall
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331



Donate now at [imcd.org](https://www.imcd.org)
Please support the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District in their efforts to raise funds to dedicate a Water Patrol Officer to Lake Minnetonka.

Buckthorn Removal this Winter

Woodland Public Works is offering to remove buckthorn for a nominal hourly rate this winter. The brush will be cut and removed, and stumps treated and covered with black plastic to kill the roots. If interested, contact the City Clerk to get on the schedule.

If you've noticed bushes that stayed green longer than other growth in your yard this fall, it is likely buckthorn. This non-native invasive plant becomes an impenetrable layer of vegetation, shading out native growth on the forest floor, increasing erosion and stealing nutrients and moisture from trees and more desirable plants.

The only way to eradicate buckthorn is by pulling saplings, cutting large bushes and either digging out or treating and covering stumps. Cutting alone only causes resprouting. Female bushes with berries are a removal priority, as birds spread the hearty seeds prolifically. Learn more at the Minnesota DNR website.

Lock mail theft out of town!

24 new locking mailboxes have been ordered to-date!

If you missed the first deadline and would like to order a USPS-approved mailbox through the City, taking advantage of our volume pricing, please contact the Clerk at sara@woodlandmn.org ASAP.

Mail theft and identity theft is Woodland's number one crime. Police Chief Cory Johnson has been recommending locking mailboxes for more nearly *two decades!*

If you don't have a locking mailbox, call 952-358-9936 right now. Let's lock mail and identity theft out of Woodland for good!

