

# Deephaven News

Information for City Residents

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

January, February and March 2003



## “Mayor’s Corner”

First of all, I would like to thank the residents of Deephaven for allowing me to serve as your Mayor for the next two years. Your choice for Mayor was a difficult decision for each of you to make. The other Candidates are talented, dedicated individuals who, like myself, have the well being of Deephaven as their top priority. I am honored that you elected me.

This new addition to your quarterly newsletter will be called the “Mayor’s Corner.” Its purpose is to alert the residents of Deephaven to upcoming issues. The Newly Elected City Council will meet prior to the release of the newsletter in order to formulate the information for the “Mayor’s Corner” article.

Due to the short lead time for this newsletter, the newly elected Council decided to provide all residents with a copy of the press release that has been sent to the local newspapers announcing the people, process and intent of the new City Council to appoint my replacement on the Council. This is being done to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to have input into the process. The candidates that were considered were nominated by you, the residents. Hopefully this process will conclude with the appointment of a qualified individual on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is important that the position be filled and we get on with city business.

From all of us on the City Council and at City Hall, we hope your New Year is filled with Joy and Happiness.

**Mayor Tom L. Anderson**

## Skating rinks



The ice at the hockey and figure skating rinks at City Hall and Thorpe Park are doomed so far this year. But when we do get cold weather, the warming house hours are:

- Weekdays: -- 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Sundays noon to 6:00 p.m.

Part-time City employees supervise the warming houses. The rinks will be closed when temperatures are below – 10°F or the wind chills temperature is –25°F or lower. Call City Hall (952) 474-4755 weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM for weather-related closings.

## Christmas Tree Disposal

Waste Management will collect all real christmas trees January 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Service will be on your normal collection day and is being provided at no additional charge. Trees



collected as part of this program will be chipped and then used for compost. Please note that wreaths and flocked trees can not be composted. These should be set

out with your regular garbage. To ensure that your tree is collected and composted, please:

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

## Winter trail activities

The City will maintain the LRT trail for winter use from November 15 to March 31. Half the trail will be plowed for those who jog, walk or ride a bike. The other half will be left with snow for cross-country skiers.



## A Brief Word of Thanks & Farewell

On behalf of the City Staff, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mayor Howard Bennis, Councilmember Dale Moe and Councilmember Mark Thompson for their years of devoted service on behalf of the citizens of Deephaven. Few people realize the time, effort and devotion needed to serve on the City Council. It is an awarding, often frustrating, and almost always interesting position! We wish Howard, Dale and Mark – and their families who so often suffered by their frequent absences – a bright and enjoyable future.

We are also eagerly looking forward to working with some familiar faces on the City Council - Mayor Tom Anderson and Councilmember Nancy Middleton - and some new faces – incoming Councilmembers Paul Skrede and Kim Crockett!

### City property tax funds many services

At the 2003 tax rate, the owner of a \$250,000 home pays a total of \$3,176 in property taxes. Here's where your tax money ends up.

#### \$3,176 – Total property tax payment:

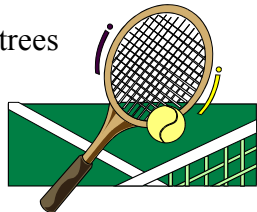
*\$503 goes to the City of Deephaven*



The City receives 20.115% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$250,000 pays about \$41.90 a

month and receives services that can affect a family's safety and quality of life:

- 24-hour police and fire protection
- Prompt snowplowing of all city streets
- Flooding and resurfacing four outdoor ice rinks
- 24-hour emergency medical response (police are on the scene in the crucial minutes *before* the ambulance arrives)
- Office staffing to assist residents and answer questions
- Full-service parks with 10 tennis courts
- Six beaches
- Maintaining roads, park equipment and trails
- Street sweeping
- Care of public property trees
- Regular mowing of park lawns
- Maintaining street signs and streetlights



*\$2,673 goes to other government agencies*

Minnetonka Schools and Hennepin County receive 75.169% of your property tax payment. Other agencies receiving property taxes are the Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, Mosquito Control District and vocational-technical schools.



**Snowplows are here!**

Winter is upon us and we want to give you some

information that will help us clear snow from your streets and make winter driving safer for all of us.

- Move your car off the street or from a city parking lot during or immediately after a snowfall of two or more inches. You may return your vehicle to the street or lot after it has been completely plowed. If you are in doubt about how much snow has or is falling, move your vehicle. The police are authorized to ticket vehicles parked in violation of this regulation.
- When driving behind a snowplow, stay back at least four car lengths. Snow dust from a snowplow can obstruct your vision while driving, creating a hazardous condition.
- If your yard experienced damage from a snowplow in the past, please place stakes about 20 - 25 feet apart just off the road edge to mark the location of your lawn.
- Do not allow your children or other children to play on snow banks next to the street.

### Snowplow Damage

It is the Public Work's Department's goal to have the entire street system cleaned after a "typical" snowfall in approximately 10 hours, assuming a general plowing operation beginning at 4 AM and snowfall ending by 8AM.

The width of the street right-of-way is designed to provide room for snow storage, utilities, sidewalks and other City uses. However, certain private items such as mailboxes, are often located within this area.

If the street or boulevard is damaged by a snowplow, City crews will repair it in the spring. If your mailbox is physically hit and damaged by a plow, the City will repair or replace it immediately. City personnel do not provide driveway cleaning. Possible exceptions are at the discretion of the Supervisor for emergency situations.

It is not possible to provide perfect conditions and minimize damage to mailboxes with the size and type of equipment the City operates. Therefore, the final cleaning adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.

### Snowmobile regulations

City ordinance 705.03 prohibits the operation of snowmobiles under any of these circumstances:

- On a sidewalk or walkway provided or used for pedestrian traffic,

- On private property without the operator having in possession written consent from the property owner,
- On any public land or frozen waters including, but not limited to, school grounds, park property, playgrounds and recreational areas except for areas authorized for such use by proper authority when traversing to or from approved snowmobile areas by the shortest legal route,
- Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except to travel to or from a final destination without delay, and
- On any street except when traversing to or from an approved area by the shortest legal route.



	<u>2002 Rate</u>	<u>2003 Rate</u>
Sewer Rates	\$50.00/Quarter	\$60.00/Quarter
Water Rates	\$ 5.00/Quarter	\$10.00/Quarter
Stormwater Fee	\$ 1.80/Quarter	\$ 3.00/Quarter

The reason for the rate increases in all three funds is to generate additional revenue to pay for expected cost increases. The Sewer Fund is expecting costs to increase in several critical areas. First, the costs of treating our wastewater has increased due to a planned 2003 rate increase charged by the Met Council and due to increased fees resulting from infiltration problems. Second, the City has initiated an annual maintenance program to clean our sewer mains that will cost an estimated \$30,000 per year. And third, infiltration problems that are beginning to occur in our system that signify the need for repair and/or replacement of portions of the sewer main.

### Franchise Fees

If you look carefully on your Xcel Energy and Reliant Energy bills, you will notice a line item on your bill that is called City Franchise Fee. Do you wonder what this \$2.50 fee is used for?

When the State Legislature approved the 2001 Tax Bill, levy limits were imposed for 2002 and 2003 on all cities with populations exceeding 2,500. One of the major consequences of levy limits is that it prevented the City of Deephaven from properly funding our Capital Improvement Fund. It is from this fund that police and street vehicles are replaced and street improvement projects are funded. This left the City with few options but to explore other revenue sources in which to fund the scheduled replacement of vehicles and street projects. One such revenue source is the use of franchise fees.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the City Council adopted an ordinance that requires both Xcel Energy and Reliant Energy to pay a franchise fee based on a \$2.50 charge per meter connection. As a result, all customers of these two energy providers within the City of Deephaven are required to pay an additional \$2.50 per month on both their energy and gas bill. These fees are collected by Xcel and Reliant Energy and sent to the City of Deephaven. Estimated at approximately \$90,000 in revenues per year, these franchise fees are placed in the City's Capital Improvement Fund to be used specifically for street improvement projects and the future replacement of street vehicles.

### Utility Rate Increases Planned for 2003

At the December 2, 2002 Council meeting, the City Council authorized increases in the sewer rate, water rate and storm water fee for 2003. The rates are scheduled to increase in 2003 by the following amounts:

A water rate increase is also proposed to increase the administrative fee for those 88 customers within the City of Deephaven that are provided public water service by the cities of Minnetonka or Shorewood. An increase is necessary to more fairly apportion the costs of billing for water service and to pay for the increased costs of maintaining and servicing the water lines and fire hydrants.

And finally, an increase is proposed in the storm water fee due to the increased costs of having to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program mandated by the Clean Water Act and a Storm Water Management Plan mandated by the Met Council.

### Enhanced City Communications via E-Mail

If you would be interested in receiving copies of Council & Board agendas, minutes, City Newsletters, monthly summaries of Council activities, town meeting notices and other city news & notes via your e-mail, please email to: [sandyl@cityofdeephaven.org](mailto:sandyl@cityofdeephaven.org) with your e-mail address. We will begin e-mailing this information to interested residents beginning in January.



### Deer Management Survey

In the last Newsletter, an article appeared stating that the Deephaven City Council is currently reviewing the possibility of adopting a Deer Management Plan and that Deephaven residents

will have the opportunity to comment on the adoption of a Deer Management Program by responding to a survey. If you wish to provide us with your comments or concerns on this issue, please complete the brief survey

on the bottom of the second page of the enclosed insert entitled Citizen Attitude Survey. Please return the survey to City Hall on or before January 31, 2003. Thank you!

### City Council Meetings to appear on the Public Access Channel

Beginning with the January 6, 2003 meeting, we are excited to announce that the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission will televise all future Deephaven city council meetings. The Council meetings will be rebroadcast on Channel 8.



### Weekly Compost Pickup?

The City receives a number of calls from residents on how to get rid of compost material such as leaves, brush, grass and tree limbs. The City currently offers two cleanup programs in the spring and fall to allow residents

to get rid of compost material. Spring Cleanup Day provides for the curbside pickup of compost material and also allows residents to bring difficult to dispose of items such as mattresses, old furniture and carpeting to City Hall for a disposal fee. Fall Cleanup Day provides a second opportunity for the curbside pickup of compost material.

As an alternative to the Spring and Fall Cleanup Day Programs, discussions have been held with Waste Management about providing all residents with the weekly pickup of compost material from the spring to the fall that would occur right along with the pickup of our garbage. This would give residents the opportunity to dispose of your compost material each week rather than having to wait for one specific day in the spring and fall. Residents could also dispose of unusual items such as old furniture, mattresses, etc. on a weekly basis by contacting Waste Management and paying a fee for its removal. The monthly fee that Waste Management would charge for the weekly pickup of compost material is still to be negotiated.

We would love to hear from you on this issue. Please let us know if you would be interested in having the weekly pickup of compost material rather than holding the Spring and Fall Cleanup Day. You can call City Hall @ 952-474-4755 or email to: [sandyl@cityofdeephaven.org](mailto:sandyl@cityofdeephaven.org)

### Improvement Projects Planned for 2003

After the construction of the Carson's Bay Bridge and the Main Beach Improvement Project this year, 2003 looks to be a much quieter year in terms of street, park and utility projects. The schedule of projects planned for 2003 include:

2003 Improvement Projects	Estimated Cost
Construction of new sand/salt shed	85,000
Seal Coating of city streets	75,000
Overlay Cottagewood Road/Bridge Approach	120,804
Robinson's Bay Beach Upgrade	4,000
Sewer Main Cleaning & Televising	29,500
Bay Street Storm Sewer Replacement	2,500
Main Beach Fishing Pier	12,000

### Southshore Community Center

The center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Noon meals are served at the center on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Reservations are needed two days in advance. To make a reservation call (952) 474-7635.

Transportation is available by calling dial-a-ride at (952) 474-7441. The center is located at 5735 Country Club Road in Shorewood. It is for rent and is ideal for meetings, conferences, parties, wedding receptions and family gatherings. Stop by and check it out or call (952) 474-7635.

#### Your City Council:

Mayor Tom Anderson, Councilmembers Nancy Middleton, Kim Crockett, Paul Skrede and ?

Dana Young, City Administrator  
Sandy Langley, City Clerk  
Harlan Johnson, Police Chief  
Jerry Hudlow, Public Works Foreman

The Deephaven City Council normally meets twice a month on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 PM the Council Chambers. The Planning Commission meets at

7:00 PM n the third Tuesday of each month. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings.

Administration and Public Works	952-474-4755
Police	952-474-7555