



Deephaven News

"Information for Residents"

Deephaven City Hall 20225 Cottagewood Road Deephaven, MN 55331

www.cityofdeephaven.org

Volume 1, Issue 2

January, February and March, 2006

Inside this issue:

2006 Utility Rate Increases

Volunteers	2
Christmas Tree Disposal	2
Winter Trail Activities	3
Snowmobile Prohibitions	4
Community Services provided by Property Taxes	5
Mayor's Corner	6

On November 21, 2005, the Deephaven City Council approved both a sewer rate increase and a storm water rate increase that will go into effect in January and due beginning with the April, 2006 utility billing. The sewer rate will increase from \$60.00 per quarter to \$65.00 per quarter and the storm water rate will increase from \$6.00 per quarter to \$15.00 per quarter.

The reason for the increase in these fees is the need to increase both sewer and storm water revenues to finance the increasing costs of repairs and improvements to the sewer system and the storm water system. The sewer system was installed in the early 1970's and the sewer mains are in need of cleaning, general repair and, in some areas, relining. Repairing these mains will cost approximately \$77,000 in 2006. There is also a need to upgrade our lift stations. The City owns and operates nine lift stations that were installed along with the sewer mains in 1972. Each lift station contains a control panel that operates the internal controls of the station. These control panels are over 30 years old and because of their age, parts are no longer available to repair the original panels. New control panels will be installed in all nine lift stations in 2006 at a cost of approximately \$150,000, payable over a three year period.

The City of Deephaven has a unique storm system in that the majority of storm water is controlled naturally through existing wetland, private ponds, or into the many lakes that are within or abut our city. The only city owned storm sewers are a few old hot water heater pipes that were installed fifty years ago to help control storm water runoff. This unique system, for the most part, has worked very well over the years but there are a number of areas throughout the City where better storm water controls will have to be installed. Preliminary estimates have shown that approximately \$395,000 will be needed over the next five or so years to upgrade the storm sewer system throughout Deephaven. The increase in your storm sewer rate will be used to generate the revenues necessary to make these improvements.

Volunteers Lending a Helping Hand

Volunteers play a critical role in our City and each year at this time we like to recognize their terrific efforts. Volunteers provide important recommendations to our City Council on a variety of issues relating to planning, parks and boating; beautify our city gardens and parks; preserve our historical heritage; operate the City web page and organize city events and celebrations.

In short, they provide a number of invaluable services to our community.

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 own time to their community in 2005 by serving on the **Planning Commission, Boat Committee, Park Committee, Garden Club and Historical Society.**

Do you think you might be interested in volunteering your time and talents?

Almost every year at this time, positions become available on most City committees or additional volunteers are needed for the Garden Club, as election judges or to join the Deephaven Historical Society. The Planning Commission and Boat Committee currently have vacancies that need to be filled with an energetic volunteer. If you have time and interest in serving your community, please call City Hall at (952) 474-4755 for additional information.

Christmas Tree Disposal



Waste Management will collect all real trees the week of January 2nd and the week of January 16th. The pickup 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 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 garbage collection. Trees set out too early may get buried from passing snowplows, making it very difficult to free the tree from the snow.

Snowbirds

No person may park or leave a vehicle unattended on any city street or public parking lot in the City after two or more inches of snow has fallen until the street or parking lot has been completely plowed. The Police are authorized to remove any vehicles parked or left unattended that are in violation of this regulation.



Winter Trail Activities

The City will maintain the LRT trail for Winter use from November 15th to March 31st. Approximately half of 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.



2006 Warming House Schedule
Village Hall Park / Thorpe Park
20225 Cottagewood Road 3725 Hamilton Avenue

Monday—Friday	4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	School Holidays:	1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve:	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday:	1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	New Year’s Eve:	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	CLOSED	New Year’s Day:	CLOSED

Rinks operate from approximately December 17th to February 19th, weather permitting.

Deephaven residents may check out a Warming House key from City Hall, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A Drivers License is Required to check out the key.

Snowplows are here!



Winter is upon us and we want to provide you with some information that will help us to clear snow more efficiently from your streets and make winter driving safer for all of us.

- ◆ Please move your car off the street or from a public parking lot during or immediately after a snowfall of two or more inches. You may return your vehicle to the street or parking lot after it has been completely plowed. If you are in doubt about how much snow has fallen 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 situation.
- ◆ If your yard has experienced damage from a snowplow in the past, please place stakes about 20 feet apart just off the road edge to mark the location of your lawn.
- ◆ Please do not allow your children or other children to play on snow banks next to the street.

Southshore Senior Center

Please refer to the website for the Southshore Senior & Community Center for a wide variety of information, classes, trips and reservation information provided to our community.

www.southshore-center.org

Your Southshore Community Center is a great place to hold an event!

Located at 5735 Country Club Road, its three rooms can comfortably accommodate from 35 people to 175 people. Events have included business meetings, birthday & anniversary parties, wedding receptions and many others! Call Jo Ann at 952-541-1019 for more information.

Snowmobile Prohibitions

City Ordinance No. 705.03 prohibits the operation of snowmobiles under any of these circumstances:

- On a sidewalk or walkway 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 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 traversing to or from the 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.

Staff Milestones in 2005

Deephaven is very fortunate to be served by a talented and dedicated staff. Please join us in thanking Cory Johnson, Matt Carns, Mary Courtney, Teresa Pendleton, John Menzel, Doug Lawver and Gus Karpas for providing over 5 years of excellent service to our community.

Snowplow Damage

It is our goal to have all streets in Deephaven cleared after a "typical" snowfall in approximately 10 hours, assuming a general plowing operation beginning at 4:00 a.m. and snowfall ending at around 8:00 a.m.

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 items such as mailboxes, are also often located within 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.

City personnel do not clear private driveways. Possible exceptions are at the discretion of the Public Works Supervisor for emergency situations.

It is not possible for the City crew to clear snow around mailboxes with the size and type of snow removal equipment that the City uses. Therefore, the final cleaning around mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.

City Property Taxes Funds Many Services

At the 2006 tax rate, the owner of a \$625,000 home pays a total of \$7,050 in property taxes. Here's where your tax money ends up.

\$1,107 goes to the City of Deephaven – The City receives 15.7% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$92 per month to the City 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
- Full-service parks with 8 tennis courts, 3 ball fields, 4 ice rinks & 7 playground structures
- Six beaches – 3 with lifeguard services
- Three trails
- Street maintenance, boulevard maintenance, street sweeping & street lighting
- Park & public tree maintenance
- Office staff to assist residents and answer questions
- Deer Management

\$2,616 goes to the Minnetonka School District – The School District receives 37.1% of your property tax payment for public education through the property tax levy and a voter approved school levy. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$218 per month to the School District.

\$2,690 goes to Hennepin County – Hennepin County receives 38.2% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$224 per month to Hennepin County.

\$637 goes to other agencies such as the Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, Mosquito Control District and the Solid Waste Fee - These agencies receive 9.0% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$53 per month to these various agencies.

Improvement Projects Planned for 2006

The schedule of projects planned for 2006 include:

Improvement Projects	Est. Cost
Resurface Thorpe Park Tennis Court	10,500
Resurface Village Hall Tennis Court	13,500
Sandy Beach Swimming Dock	2,500
Robinson's Bay Beach Swimming Dock	2,500
Seal Coating	75,000
Park, Beach & Trail Improvements	22,150
Lift Station Control Panels	46,000
Sewer Main Repairs	77,000
Montgomerie/Hamilton Drainage Repair	40,000
Storm Sewer Improvements	26,000
Dock & Slide Improvements	<u>65,000</u>
Total	\$380,150

The Mayor's Corner

It's that time of year...no, I am not referring to Christmas or Hanukkah, I am referring to TAXES. On December 5th the Deephaven City Council shared with interested residents the annual "truth in taxation" material on the 2006 City Budget. This report provides the residents with detailed information about where your tax dollars are spent. It also provides data with regards to your City and how it compares with other Cities in the State of Minnesota.

We in Deephaven have a lot to be proud of, like a very low crime rate, high standard of living, great friends and neighbors and much more. Right up there with the other important quality of life measurements are low taxes. Once again, Deephaven ranks near the top of the list of lowest tax rates in the State. We currently enjoy the 34th lowest tax capacity rate out of 853 municipalities. Our share of the property taxes you pay, which include Hennepin County, the Watershed Districts, the Minnetonka School District and others, has dropped from 20.6% in 2002 to its current rate of 16.87%. The primary reason for the drop is that even though your property values have risen sharply during this period, your City Government has resisted the temptation of raising your taxes proportionate to the increase in the City's market values. We have held steady and developed budgets for what are necessary to run this City, not what is available to spend.

I wish I could take all the credit for this mode of operation, but the fact is that Deephaven has had responsible City Government for a long time. It is this Council's charge to keep our finances responsible on behalf of you, the taxpayer. It is my belief, that if there ever is a time when the City needs extra funds for a particular project, residents will be more supportive if their City Government has historically shown restraint in the past.

With that said, from all of your elected officials and staff at the City of Deephaven, may your Christmas, Hanukkah and important holiday celebrations exceed your expectations.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom L. Anderson

Please Note Changes to Council Meeting Dates

Due to conflicts with several holidays, the dates of four Council meetings in 2006 have been changed as follows:

HOLIDAY	ORIGINAL MEETING DATE	NEW MEETING DATE
New Year's Day	January 2, 2006	January 5, 2006
Martin Luther King Day	January 16, 2006	Canceled
President's Day	February 20, 2006	Canceled
Labor Day	September 4, 2006	September 7, 2006
