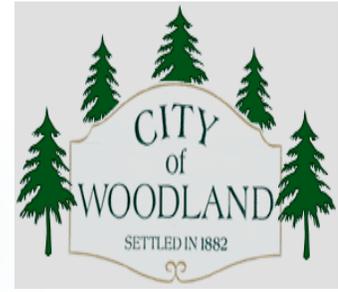


Winter 2014

Woodland News



A Low-Salt Diet for Our Lakes and Streams

Tips from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

A little salt goes a long way for managing snow and ice. But too much salt – which may be less than you think – can cause irreversible damage to nearby lakes and streams.

The danger of ice and snow on roads and sidewalks is a fact of life in Minnesota, and salt and sand can help reduce ice and add traction. When that snow inevitably melts, however, most of that salt and sand wash directly into nearby waters.

Currently, salt use is not regulated, but it poses a real threat to clean water. The chloride contained in one teaspoon of road salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water. Chloride upsets aquatic environments and can kill birds and some plants.

For more information on what you can do, please visit the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District website at www.minnehahacreek.org.

Home Safety in the Winter Months

It's important to be prepared in the winter months for "what if" situations. Here are some reminders:

- ◆ Keep ahead of the winter storm by listening for the latest weather statements, watches and warnings, and understand what those terms mean.
- ◆ Be equipped for the worst. Carry a winter survival kit in your car, especially when traveling in rural or open areas. Try to travel with others. If a cell phone is available, have it with you and fully charged.
- ◆ Heating devices are a major cause of residential fires in Minnesota. Turn off portable heating devices when you are away from home or retire for the evening.
- ◆ Have a working, UL-listed **smoke alarm** on every level of your home and in every bedroom.
- ◆ **Carbon monoxide** is most likely to accumulate inside homes during winter. Check your heating systems and ensure your home has proper ventilation. Install a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector that sounds an alarm.
- ◆ Have **fire extinguishers** in your home and know how to use them.
- ◆ Know where all your utility shutoffs are located.

Tips for Using Salt

Want to protect your local lake or stream from chloride pollution?

Here are some easy ways you can help:

- ◆ Apply salt or other de-icers before snow storms, so you will need less later.
- ◆ Shovel regularly (a great form of winter exercise) to minimize ice buildup.
- ◆ Break up ice with an ice scraper before deciding if sand or a de-icer is necessary for traction – you may find that it's not.
- ◆ Use sand instead of salt in below 15 degree temperatures
- ◆ Sweep up any salt that's visible on dry pavement and use it elsewhere or throw it away.

Emergency Preparedness

Help emergency services find your house in an emergency

Visible house numbers are vital when there is an emergency call for fire, police, or the ambulance service. To assist emergency personnel in finding you quickly, follow these tips to ensure visibility of your house number from the street:

- ◆ Display numbers next to the front door.
- ◆ House numbers must be 4 inches or larger.
- ◆ Use numerals, not words.
- ◆ Use reflective numbers if possible.
- ◆ Have address near lighting to illuminate the numbers.
- ◆ Clear bushes and vegetation from the area around the address.

Visit www.dps.mn.gov for more information.



Winter Activities and Safety on the Lake!

With a wide range of winter activities on Lake Minnetonka, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is encouraging the public's assistance to ensure that the activities are performed safely. *The ice is never deemed 100% safe.*

Winter Speed Limits on Lake Minnetonka

The "shorezone" is the area of the ice within 150 feet from the entire shoreline of Lake Minnetonka. This area is reserved for non-motorized activities such as walking, skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and fishing. All motorized vehicles (snowmobile, ATV, cars, etc.) may traverse within the shorezone by the shortest direct route from the shoreline to open ice 150 feet beyond the shoreline. The speed limit for motorized vehicles within the shorezone (daytime and nighttime) is 25 M.P.H.

The "shorezone" is the area of the ice within 150 feet from the entire shoreline of Lake Minnetonka. This area is reserved for non-motorized activities such as walking, skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and fishing.

No motorized vehicle may be operated at a speed in excess of 25 M.P.H. within 150 feet of any fisherman, fish house, pedestrian, skater/rink, sliding area, or in any area of the Lake where the operation would conflict with or endanger other persons or property. The speed limit for such travel (daytime and nighttime) is 25 M.P.H.

The daytime speed limit for all motorized vehicles outside of the shorezone, and greater than 150 feet from the non-motorized activities described above, is 50 M.P.H.

The nighttime speed limit outside of the shorezone, and greater than 150 feet from the non-motorized activities described above, is 30 M.P.H., (except for snowmobiles - 50 M.P.H., as defined by State Statute). For additional information, please visit the LMCD website at www.LMCD.org.

Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through. For additional information, please visit the LMCD website at www.LMCD.org.

All residents and their homes are vulnerable to the dangers, harm, and destruction by fire, carbon monoxide (CO), smoke resulting from fires and radon gas (a radioactive element causing cancer of the lung). The State of Minnesota places mandates on new home construction and remodeling but in general, no regulations exist for older homes. The City of Woodland has no specific requirements or mandates, but outlines realistic and reasonable recommendations. Action of such is at the discretion and risk tolerance of the resident.

FIRES IN THE HOME: A REAL AND CONSTANT DANGER

If lightning sets the roof on fire, if the furnace explodes or a similar catastrophe occurs, if a smoke alarm alerts you, get yourself and all others occupants IMMEDIATELY out of the house and THEN CALL 911. Many home fires are caused by the resident. These fires begin as a relatively small event which can be contained by the resident IF THE HOUSE IS PROPERLY PREPARED WITH THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER AND PLACEMENT OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

I. Review

After discussion with Kevin Klapprich, Woodland's Fire Chief, it is apparent that fires do happen, occur in Woodland, and often can be limited with the presence of appropriate functioning detectors and extinguishers. In 2013, the fire department received 12 fire calls; 5 were either false alarms or contained and controlled by the resident using an extinguisher or by smothering a grease fire at a stove with a cover or a thick towel placed over the burning pot or skillet. In general this containment constitutes 10-15% of all individual house fires. The doubling time of a house fire (size and intensity) is ONE MINUTE; thus with adequately placed and sized extinguishers and smoke detectors/alarms, containment could be increased to 20-30%. Kitchen fires constitute 40% of these fires, followed by fires in the garage and furnace room. Electrical fires (from frayed wires, or overloaded circuits, extensions cords) constitute 20% of home fires. Four of the 12 calls required the presence and capabilities of a fire truck, and the expertise of the Wayzata volunteer fire fighters who are prompt, very capable, proficient, and dedicated individuals.

II. Fire Extinguisher – Recommendations

Fire Chief Klapprich recommends a minimum of one adequate (the bigger, the better) fire extinguisher (ABC Type) centrally located on each floor of the house (including the basement) with one in the kitchen area within easy reach of the cooking space, but not behind the stove.

III. Smoke Detectors – Recommendation

Smoke detectors generally function as an indicator of fire to the resident while asleep. Minnesota State law mandates one smoke detector in all sleeping rooms, all hallways leading to exits and on each floor for all new construction. The function of detectors should be periodically checked and if energized by batteries, the batteries changed on a regular schedule – two times per year, i.e. whenever you change the clocks, change the batteries. Chief Klapprich recommends compliance with state law for homes built since 2007. For older homes, reasonable protection is constituted by a detector in or immediately outside each bedroom. Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are available in most hardware stores.

If residents have further questions, Chief Klapprich can be reached by email at kklapprich@wayzata.org or by calling the fire station at 952-404-5337, to leave a message for him so to return your call. The Woodland Council strongly endorses the Chief's recommendations and encourages compliance with State mandates for newer construction.



I. Review

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas often formed in the process of incomplete or oxygen-starved combustion of organic substances, including fuels. Common sources of CO in homes include fuel-burning devices such as: furnaces and gas space heaters, boilers, gas cooking stoves, water heaters, clothes dryers and fireplaces. Dangerous concentrations develop when fuel-burning devices are not properly vented, operated, maintained or confined by “well-built, non-porous houses”. Fortunately, CO can be detected by inexpensive properly functioning monitors available at most hardware stores.

II. Recommendations

- 1) Know the symptoms of CO poisoning - The first signs of exposure to injurious concentrations of CO include mild headache and breathlessness with moderate exercise. Continued exposure can lead to flu-like symptoms including headaches, dizziness, lethargy, and nausea that may progress to confusion, irritability, and impaired judgment, memory and coordination. CO is called the "silent killer" because if the early signs are ignored, a person may lose consciousness and thus become unable to escape to safety.
- 2) Detect potentially deadly accumulations of CO with the installation of CO alarms in accordance with Minnesota State Law requiring single family homes to have at least one operational CO alarm within 10 feet of every room used for sleeping (see Minnesota Statute, 299F.50). The Woodland Council recommends at least one CO monitor/alarm within 10 feet of all rooms used for sleeping and one CO/gas monitor alarm located in the furnace room.
- 3) Have your fuel-burning appliances checked by a qualified heating contractor each Fall of the year in order to detect problems.

For questions about CO in private homes, or indoor air quality, contact the Indoor Air Unit at health.indoorair@state.mn.us, 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050.

RADON GAS: A PERNICIOUS ELEMENT IN THE BASEMENT

I. Review

Radon is a radioactive gas which concentrates in the lungs. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, approximately 21,000 deaths per year. Radon is an odorless, tasteless gas formed from the decay of naturally occurring uranium found in rock and soil throughout Minnesota and in substantial amounts in much of Woodland's soil. The primary source radon exposure for most people is their home where the gas seeps through the structural cracks or gaps in the foundation or through the basement floor. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) estimates that one in three homes in Minnesota have levels of radon gas that pose a formidable health risk if exposure is greater than 10 years in duration.

More than 300 Minnesotans succumb each year to death by radon, according to Matt Flory, Health Care Director for the American Cancer Society (ACS). (In order to establish importance by comparison, the annual fatality rate on Minnesota roads caused by motor vehicles is 450 persons)

Owners of existing homes where testing reveals levels of radon over 4 PiC/L should consider installation of ventilation systems for radon mitigation.

II. Recommendation

Homes should be tested for the presence and level of radon once every five years or after undergoing major structural changes. Radon test kits and information can be obtained online at www.mn.radon.com.

For more information on testing, mitigation, and new radon-resistant construction, visit www.health.state.mn.us/radon or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050.

Winter Activities

Spend a Day at the Park

Winter is a great time to enjoy one of the many Hennepin County Parks. www.threeriversparkdistrict.org

Three Rivers Park District offers more than 70 miles of cross-country ski trails at seven locations. Trails are available for skiers of all skill levels and are groomed for traditional stride and ski skating. Park permits are required for cross-country skiing.

Lighted trails are available at Elm Creek, Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Cleary Lake, Eagle Lake, and French Regional Park.

For Snow Conditions:

call 763-559-6778 or go to:
www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/trails

Reminder about Depositing Snow

The City reminds residents that it is unlawful to deposit snow on or next to a public highway or street. (City Ordinance Chapter 400)

The City's ordinance prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow on public roads. This includes the ditch and right of way area along the roads.

Violations are considered misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard, such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump, that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

Improperly placing snow on or near a public road creates hazards including drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction, and unsafe access. Special attention should be made to keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

What's new in Recycling?

Our City's recycling program has started taking additional plastics - including yogurt cups, cottage cheese tubs, and deli containers. In addition, containers for cream cheese, ricotta cheese, margarine, medicine, food storage, and clamshell to-go boxes are now collected. Caps are okay! Just empty the container and put the cap back on recyclable bottles, such as milk, juice, beverage, liquid detergent, shampoo, and more.

**Recycling Program
now takes additional
types of plastics.**

Please note: Plastic bags are usually not accepted in curbside recycling with your other plastics; however, they are collected in bins throughout the metropolitan area at many grocery stores, as well as some county recycling centers. This includes nearly any type of bag as long as it doesn't contain food, is dry and isn't a specialty item like bubble wrap. For more information, please visit www.co.hennepin.mn.us.

Ice Skating

The Deephaven Ice Skating Rinks operate from approximately December 15th to February 17th, weather permitting. The Ice Skating Rinks are located in Thorpe Park and Village Hall Park. These are outdoor skating rinks and open for use to the public during the winter season.

Please Note: There will be NO warming house attendants for the skating season, although the warming houses will still be open.

The warming house hours at both Village Hall Park and Thorpe Park are as follows:

Mondays - Fridays	1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sundays	1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
School Holiday	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The warming houses will be open through February 17th or later if the weather permits.

Visit www.cityofdeephavenmn.org for more information.



www.woodlandmn.org

The Identity Theft Roadmap (Hennepin County Attorney)

Unfortunately, identity theft is no longer unusual. It is a crime where key pieces of your personal identifying information such as your Social Security number or driver's license number and uses them for their own personal gain. An identity thief can take your personal information from your mail box or your home. Identity theft laws and crack-downs, while improving, are definitely not where they should be. It's hard to pin down, because each law enforcement agency may classify ID theft differently-it can involve credit card fraud, Internet fraud or mail theft, among other crimes.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety provides tips that can be followed to prevent identity theft:

- ◆ **Be cautious when sharing your personal information** (such as credit cards, Social Security or driver's license numbers) over the phone, through the mail or online. Verify that you are dealing with a legitimate business.
- ◆ **Be safe online.** Do not download a suspicious file or click on a hyperlink to an unfamiliar website.
- ◆ **Limit the number of ID cards, credit cards and checks that you carry.** Only carry your Social Security card, birth certificate and/or passport when absolutely necessary.
- ◆ **Guard your checks.** Do not leave checks in your car.
- ◆ **Don't use obvious passwords** like your birthdates, Social Security number, phone number or mother's maiden name.
- ◆ **Keep personal information safe and secure,** especially if there are room-mates, contractors or others in your home.
- ◆ **Shred** any document containing personal information.
- ◆ **Be alert** for "shoulder surfers" who stand near ATMs and cell phones to see your ID and PIN numbers.
- ◆ **Review your credit report every year.** Monitor accounts and pay attention to billing cycles and any suspicious charges.

For more information, please visit www.hennepinattorney.org.

Disposing of your Christmas Tree

The City of Woodland ***does not*** have curb-side pickup for Christmas trees.

Please contact your hauler to have your tree picked up or visit the Hennepin County website for drop-off locations at www.co.hennepin.mn.us.

Mayor

Jim Doak952-473-1308

Council Members

Sliv Carlson952-475-0586

John Massie612-889-1333

Tom Newberry651-642-4242

Chris Rich612-308-5916

Woodland City Hall

City Hall 952-474-4755

Police 952-474-7555

For additional contact information, please call City Hall or visit our website at www.woodlandmn.org.

A Note About Your Septic System

You may have heard that the single-use wipes are not good for municipal sewer systems, but have you heard that they are bad for your septic system too?

If you are using wipes, please don't flush them down the toilet (even if the manufacturer says it's okay). The wipes do not dissolve and may clog your septic system. In addition, the wipes have been known to knot together to form ropes as long as 40 feet and they can form into balls and plug sewer pipes.