



# Deephaven News

"Information for Residents"

Volume 1, Issue 42

January, February and March, 2016



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City of Deephaven  
 20225 Cottagewood Rd. Deephaven,  
 MN. 55331 952.474.4755  
[www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org)

**City Hall Hours:**  
*September 8th to May 26th*  
 Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm  
 Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

**"Summer" Hours**  
*May 26th to September 4th*  
 Mon to Thurs 8am to 5pm  
 Fridays 8am to 12noon  
 Closed Saturday, Sunday and  
 Holidays.



## Christmas Tree Disposal

Waste Management will collect all real trees the week of December 28<sup>th</sup> and the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

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 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.



## Warming House Hours



The warming house hours at both Village Hall Park and Thorpe Park for the 2015-2016 season 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.
Christmas Eve:	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve:	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day / New Year's Day	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The warming houses will be open through February 15, 2016 or later if the weather permits.



## Winter Trail Activities

The City will maintain the LRT trail through the City of Deephaven for winter use from November 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> for those who wish to continue to use the trail through the winter months.



When you review your property tax statements in March of 2016, please note that your property tax is determined by four factors: the amount of money spent by each local taxing jurisdiction, the impact of the market value exclusion credit, the taxable market value of your property and your property classification.

The Deephaven Board of Review will address objections to the **market value or property classification** of your property on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Board's powers are limited to these two areas.

**Steps to Appeal Your Property Value:** What should you do if you believe the estimated market value of your property is higher than other comparable properties?

**Step 1 – Meet with City Assessor Dan Distel.** If you have reason to believe that the estimated market value of your property is higher than other comparable properties, we strongly recommend that your very first step should be to contact City Assessor Dan Distel at City Hall 952-474-4755 or at his Home Office 952-361-0566 to discuss this issue in greater detail. He may be able to answer your questions without having to attend the Board of Review meeting.

**Step 2 -** If, after discussing this information with the assessor, you still feel you have good comparable sales and information to support an appeal, you should attend the Board of Review meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Deephaven City Hall. Please remember that the property owner is responsible for presenting evidence to the Board as to why the market value as determined by the assessor is not fair and equitable.

**Appeals at the April 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Review will be considered in the following order:**

1. Those residents who have met with the Assessor but were unable to come to a mutual agreement on the estimated market value of your property.
  2. Those residents presenting their cases in advance of the meeting by letter or email.
  3. And lastly, those residents who have come directly to the board without advance notice or without contacting the assessor prior to the meeting.
- ◆ **Residents will be allowed five minutes to present their appeal to the Board.**
  - ◆ Residents will be notified within three business days of the board's decision.
  - ◆ The board may decide to hold a reconvened meeting for the purpose of considering the appeals presented on April 18<sup>th</sup>. New appeals will not be heard at the reconvened meeting.

### ***Volunteers are a Huge Asset to the City!***

Volunteers play a critical role in our City. They provide recommendations on issues relating to planning, parks and boating; they beautify our city gardens and parks; they preserve our historical heritage; and provide recommendations on the improvements of our parks, beaches and marinas.

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 personal time to help their community this year by serving on the **Planning & Zoning Commission, Boat Committee, Park Committee, Garden Club and Historical Society.**

If you have time and an interest in serving your community, please call City Hall at 952-474-4755 and ask for a Volunteer Application Form. Thank you!!



The owner of a \$625,000 home in Deephaven will pay a total of \$7,855 in property taxes in 2016. Here's where your tax money ends up.

*\$1,072 goes to the City of Deephaven* – The City receives 13.6% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays \$89 per month to the City for the following array of services:

- ◆ 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 public trails
- ◆ Street maintenance, boulevard maintenance, street sweeping & street lighting
- ◆ Park maintenance
- ◆ Public tree maintenance
- ◆ Deer management
- ◆ Building & zoning code enforcement
- ◆ Office staff to assist residents and answer questions
- ◆ Municipal, State & National Elections

*\$3,065 goes to the Minnetonka School District* – The School District receives 39.0% 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 \$256 per month to the School District.

*\$2,974 goes to Hennepin County* – Hennepin County receives 37.9% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$248 per month to Hennepin County.

*\$744 goes to other agencies such as the Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, Mosquito Control, Hennepin County Parks, Met Transit Debt, the Park Museum, Hennepin County HRA, and the Railroad Authority* – These agencies receive about 9.5% of your property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$625,000 pays about \$62 per month to these various agencies.

*In comparison with the other 852 cities and townships in Minnesota, Deephaven ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in terms of the lowest tax capacity rate in 2015.*



***A Brief Word of Thanks & Farewell***

On behalf of the City Council and Staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank eight residents who have served with distinction on our city commissions throughout their terms of office. The list includes:

**Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board of Directors**

David Gross                      2005 – 2015

**Deephaven Boat Committee**

Tom Drummond                2010 – 2016

David Matteson                2010 – 2016

Jim van Bergen                 2007 – 2016

**Deephaven Park Committee**

Scott Ferguson                 2008 – 2016

Jim Elvestrom                 2009 – 2016

Cindy Webster                 2010 – 2016

John Flynn                      2004 – 2015

We thank them all for their significant contributions to our community!

***Solicitors, Peddlers, and Canvassers***

Solicitors, peddlers and canvassers **are allowed** in Deephaven. For-profit sale of products or services require a license from the city. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a permit ID issued by the Deephaven Police Department. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by the issuing of this license.

Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license.

Every resident and business has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property or you may contact City Hall to include your address on the Do Not Solicit List.

If you have a complaint about a door-to-door salesperson or solicitors, immediately contact the Deephaven Police Department at 952-474-7555.

***2016 Improvement Projects***

The schedule of projects planned for 2016 include:

<b><u>Improvement Projects</u></b>	<b><u>Est. Cost</u></b>
Street Mill & Overlay	\$405,950
Sewer Pipe Sealing	\$ 15,000
Manhole Rehabilitation	\$ 11,500
Linden Road Storm Sewer Rehabilitation	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$492,450</b>



On November 16, 2015, the Deephaven City Council approved a \$10.00 per quarter sewer rate increase that will go into effect in January 2016 with payments due beginning with the April, 2016 utility billing. The sewer rate will increase from \$85.00 per quarter to \$95.00 per quarter. This is the first sewer rate increase since November 2010.

**Why is a rate increase needed?** The wastewater from Deephaven is transported and treated by the Metropolitan Council at the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment plant in Shakopee. Each month, the Deephaven is required to pay a Municipal Wastewater Charge that is determined by our percentage of the total wastewater use in the Metropolitan Area.

In 2015, our total wastewater use was 157.08 million gallons, which resulted in an annual Municipal Wastewater Charge of \$327,414. In 2016, our total wastewater use jumped 9.4% to 171.85 million gallons, which resulted in a 23.3% increase in our annual Municipal Wastewater Charge to \$403,547 in 2016. In short, the sewer rate had to be increased to support this increase in our 2016 Municipal Wastewater Charge.

What accounts for this significant increase in wastewater usage? The City has been dealing with inflow & infiltration issues for the past year. Despite many years of televising our sewer mains to identify and repair inflow and infiltration problems, there continues to be too much groundwater infiltrating into our sewer system. Over the last 12 months, we have aggressively undertaken pipe lining and manhole repair projects that we hope will address this I&I problem. Future wastewater flow readings will determine whether we have successfully addressed the inflow & infiltration problem or whether we may have to start investigating whether inflow is occurring on private laterals.

### Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

Deephaven's sanitary sewer system was constructed, in large part, in the 1970's. Now that the system is 40 years old, the system requires additional maintenance on both the public and private sewer lines to ensure that the system continues to function as expected.

The City of Deephaven is responsible for the maintenance of over 30 miles of sanitary sewer main, hundreds of manholes, and 12 lift stations. The sanitary sewer mains are typically 8 inch pipes made of varying materials. Most of these mains are located under City streets, although there are a number of sewer mains located within public easements on private property.

To keep the sewer system in working order, the City performs many inspections and routine maintenance activities. In general, the purpose of this work is to identify and eliminate areas where groundwater is allowed to enter the sewer system (commonly known as inflow and infiltration or I & I) and to remove obstructions that could lead to a sewer back up.

Maintenance activities performed by the City include:

- Daily monitoring of lift station control panels that have been installed to monitor the condition of pumps and electrical systems in each lift station
- Monthly inspections of lift station pumps and electrical systems
- Annual manhole inspections
- Televising of sanitary sewer mains
- Jet cleaning of sanitary sewer mains
- Sewer repairs to correct deficiencies identified during routine inspections are scheduled as soon as practical.

Apart from the public sanitary sewer system, it is also a good idea for homeowners to consider occasional maintenance of the private sewer line that extends from the sewer main to your house. Private sewer lines are typically 4 to 6 inch pipes that, over time, can build up with grease or be penetrated by roots. To ensure that your service line stays free from build up and obstructions, it is recommended that you consider having your sewer service cleaned at least once every five years.

If you have any questions about the City's sanitary sewer system or measures you should take as a homeowner to maintain your portion of the system, please contact City Hall at (952) 474-4755.

## Snowplow Damage

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 uses, such as mailboxes, are also often located in 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.

Please note, however, that the City will only repair those mailboxes or posts that were actually hit by the plow.

It is not uncommon for posts to be damaged by snow or ice from the plow and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that their mailbox post is strong enough to withstand being hit periodically by snow and ice.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for the City crew to clear snow from around mailboxes with the size and type of equipment that the City operates to clear snow.

The final cleaning around mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.

City personnel do not clear private driveways nor do we intentionally plow more snow into your driveway than your neighbor. You may inadvertently receive more snow due to the angle of the plow blade or the angle of the street.



### Staff Milestones in 2015

Deephaven is very fortunate to be served by a talented and dedicated staff. Please join us in thanking our employees for their valuable contributions to our community:

**Over 10 years of service** - Matt Case, Mary Courtney, Deborah Hicks, Cory Johnson, John Menzel, Teresa Pendleton, Chris Whiteside, and Dana Young.

**Over 5 years of service** - Randy Clay, Josh Heasley, Jeff Kask, and David Klisczc.

**Less than 5 years of service** – Eric Finnvik, Dale Cooney, Elizabeth McColl, Troy Carlson, Kathy McCullum, and Richard Meyer.

### Don't trash fluorescent bulbs!

With the increased popularity of compact fluorescent bulbs comes the need to recycle old fluorescent bulbs. Mercury in the fluorescent bulbs makes bulbs hazardous in a landfill or incinerator.

Many hardware stores take old bulbs, and all types of bulbs may be recycled at Ikea in Bloomington or at the Hennepin County Recycling Centers in Brooklyn Park or Bloomington. More information is available at [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) or call 612-348-3777.



### Utility Payment Drop Off Box

The City has installed a utility bill security box for utility payments located right next to the public mailbox in the City Hall parking lot. We hope it might be more convenient for you to drop off your utility payment right from your car than having to park and come into City Hall.



### Rental Property & Utility and Garbage Payments

If you are currently renting your home, please be aware that the Deephaven City Code requires all delinquent water, sewer and garbage/recycling bills to be assessed to the property owner. It can come as an unpleasant surprise to a property owner to learn that an assessment will be placed against their property because their renter hasn't been paying their quarterly utility bills or garbage/recycling bills. If you are renting your home, we strongly recommend that you take into account the fact that the property owner is ultimately responsible for payment of utility and garbage bills.

Before we get started with the New Year, please join me in thanking our talented Administrative Staff, Police and Public Works Departments for their many contributions toward making 2015 a smooth-running and successful year. Many of you have contacted me throughout the year to express your appreciation for their hard work, and I echo those thoughts.

I would also like to thank Keith, Darel, Steve and Tony, my fellow Council members, for their many hours spent addressing your concerns, our budgets and policies as we tried to maintain or improve the quality of life we have all come to expect in good ol' Deephaven. Nice job, gentlemen!

To those of you who have volunteered and served on our various Committees and Projects, thank you for your insights and your energy. I look forward to working with you in this coming year.

Most of all, my friends, thank you for your patience when things were not as you wished, for your suggestions as to how we can improve the City, and for your commitment to making Deephaven a better place in which to live for all of us.

Together, as we turn the calendar, may we enjoy our health, appreciate our neighbors and have tremendous successes in 2016.

Happy New Year, everybody!

Paul

***Please note changes to 2016 Council Meeting Dates***

Due to conflicts with four holidays and election preparations next year, the dates of five Council meetings have been changed as follows:

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Original Meeting Date</u>	<u>New Meeting Date</u>
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Cancelled
President's Day	Monday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cancelled
Independence Day	Monday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Labor Day	Monday, September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>
Election Eve	Monday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>

**City Hall Hours, "Summer Hours" May 26th to September 4th**

Monday to Thursday 8 to 5:00 / Friday 8 to Noon / Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

**City Hall Hours, September 8th to May 26th**

Monday to Friday 8 to 4:30 / Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

**Your City Staff:**

- Dana Young, City Administrator
- Mary Courtney, Deputy Clerk
- Deborah Hicks, Utility Billing, Marina Operations
- Dale Cooney, Zoning Coordinator
- Teresa Pendleton, Building Permits
- Cory Johnson, Police Chief
- Elizabeth McColl, Police Admin Assistant
- John Menzel, Public Works Foreman
- Kathy McCullum, Woodland City Clerk

**City Office will be closed :**

**January 1, January 18, February 15**



**Your City Council:**

**Mayor :** Paul Skrede

**Council members:**

- Keith Kask, Steve Erickson
- Darel Gustafson, Tony Jewett

**Phone Numbers:**

**Administration & Public Works:**

952-474-4755

**Police Non-Emergency:** 952-474-7555

**24-Hour Police Dispatch:** 763-525-6210

**City of Deephaven Website:**

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

The Deephaven City Council normally meets twice a month on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The Park Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. The Boat Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Residents are welcome to attend any or all of these meetings. Council meetings are also televised on Cable Channel 8. Channel 8 televised dates and times for City of Deephaven meetings, as well as meeting minutes, are all available on our City website [www.cityofdeephaven.org](http://www.cityofdeephaven.org)