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May 11, 2010

Board of Review Meeting is Tonight

The Shakopee Board of Appeal and Equalization will meet at City Hall at 7 p.m. tonight to review and correct 2010 property assessments. Shakopee property owners who disagree with their property valuation or classification may appeal it at the meeting. Residents with questions about their valuations are encouraged to call the Scott County Appraiser at 952-496-8772 before the meeting.

Election Judges Needed



Election judges are needed for the Aug. 10 Primary Election and Nov. 2 General Election.

Election judges make sure the voting process runs smoothly on Election Day. Responsibilities include: greeting voters and ensuring they are at the correct polling place, registering voters, obtaining signatures, completing forms, giving out ballots and demonstrating how to use the voting machine.

On Election Day, judges may work a partial shift (6 a.m. - 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.) or a full shift. Compensation* is \$8.75 per hour. Election judges must be U.S. citizens, 18 years of age on Election Day and preferably Scott County residents.

All election judges are required to attend a two-hour paid training session. Returning judges will need to attend training every two years. Training sessions will be offered in Shakopee during July. Anyone interested in serving as an election judge should call 952-233-9316 by June 1.

For more information on the upcoming elections, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/elections.cfm.

** State law permits individuals to be absent from work without penalty to serve as an election judge. The employer must be given at least 20 days notice and can choose to reduce an individual's wages by the amount of compensation received from the City for being an election judge.*

Closing the Door on Auto Theft

You can close the door on auto theft by making your vehicle more difficult to steal. Most thieves are looking for an easy target to either “smash and grab” what’s inside or take the vehicle.

Most auto theft can be prevented by following these simple tips:



- **Practice the Obvious.** Park in a secure, well-lit area—preferably in a garage; keep valuables out of plain sight; lock your doors; and close your windows. Remember, if you hide a spare key anywhere on the car, you could be providing a thief easy access. Additionally, never leave an unattended vehicle running with the keys in the ignition.
- **Make a Scene.** Use an audible or visible warning device that is activated when someone tampers with the vehicle.
- **Identify the Vehicle.** Etch the VIN in the vehicle windshield.
- **Watch how you Park.** When parking the vehicle, be sure to turn the wheels toward the curb.
- **Classic Car Trouble.** Beware! Older vehicles are sometimes targeted for their parts.

Spring Tips for Lawns & Lakes



It’s a common urge in Minnesota – as soon as the weather warms up we start working on yard projects. As you head out with shovel and rake in hand, remember that how we care for our yard affects the health of area lakes, rivers and wetlands. Follow these lawn care tips for cleaner water:

Keep Soil in Place. Bare soil from your lawn can wash away with rain and fill in wetlands, rivers and lake bottoms. In addition to destroying wildlife habitat, dirt carries phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. Cover bare areas of soil with mulch or vegetation.

Rake and Sweep. Grass clippings, tree seeds and leaves are also sources of phosphorus. Mow so that grass clippings are directed back onto the lawn and not into the street. When done mowing, sweep sidewalks, driveways and streets clean of grass clippings.

- **Soak up the Rain.** Natural landscapes soak up rain like a sponge. When possible, direct your downspouts onto vegetated areas where water can soak in. If you are adventurous, you can create a raingarden, a shallow depression designed to capture and soak up rainwater.
- **Follow the Law.** Minnesota’s new phosphorus lawn fertilizer law requires the use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer unless seeding a new lawn or a soil test shows need for phosphorus fertilizer. More information is available at www.mda.state.mn.us/phoslaw.

You can learn more about these tips by visiting the *Minnesota Water – Let’s Keep it Clean* website at www.cleanwatermn.org.

A message from: Scott Clean Water Education Program

Residential Reminders for Working with Door-to-Door Solicitors

With the arrival of spring, complaints of door-to-door solicitors or peddlers (magazines, cleaning products, etc.) are on the rise. Although many peddlers are licensed by the City, some are exempt from that requirement because of the laws governing interstate commerce.

Here are some tips to remember when working with door-to-door solicitors:

1. Make sure the company is legitimate. If you are unsure, ask for information so you can order later; then research the company. If they are unwilling to let you order later, consider whether this is a company with whom you really want to do business.
2. Remember to provide checks and credit card numbers only to companies and organizations that you know and trust. A check or credit card number can be an opening to thieves for identity theft.
3. Trust your feelings. If you feel uncomfortable with a door-to-door solicitor and don't trust the person, don't buy anything from him or her.
4. If you do buy, hold on to any documentation that you are provided, such as an order form, receipt, etc., until you receive the product.
5. If you've ordered and paid for an item and never received it or the amount you've paid has been adjusted, contact the Police Department.

Residents who do not wish to be contacted by peddlers may post a sign saying so at their main entrance. The signs are available online at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_peddlers.cfm and are available at the Shakopee Police Department. Solicitors who disregard the sign should be reported to the Police Department.

Keep Your Hydrants Clear of Landscaping

Precious minutes are lost when firefighters have to search for fire hydrants because they are obstructed by landscaping or other items. That new bush planted in front of a hydrant would not only slow down firefighters, but it also would likely take a beating from the fire hose.

To make sure firefighters and utility workers have easy access to fire hydrants, please make sure there is at least three feet of clearance around the hydrant. Ground cover plantings, rock, wood mulch and planting are allowed within the three-foot clear area. However, plantings cannot be higher than 6 inches below the steamer connection of the hydrant.



Residents who have an obstruction around their hydrant will be notified by letter and asked to relocate the plantings or other items (this request may be appealed to the Fire Department). Persons who ignore the letter may receive a citation and either the City of Shakopee or Shakopee Public Utilities may remove the obstructions and bill the property owner for the removal and disposal costs.

Please direct any questions about this issue to the Shakopee Fire Department at 952-233-9570.

What's Happening around Town

Visit the following website for a list of upcoming activities at these City and County venues.

[Parks & Recreation Events](#)

[Shakopee Library Activities](#)

[Scott County Historical Society](#)

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129 Holmes Street S
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