

Fall
2007



CITY OF SHAKOPEE

Hometown Messenger

Message From the Mayor



End of Summer Wrap-Up

By Mayor John J. Schmitt

What a wonderful time we've had during the summer of 2007. Besides welcoming visitors to the many area attractions located in and near the city, Shakopee has also been host to numerous charitable, City, and business-sponsored events.

Perhaps one of the most publicized was the City's Sesquicentennial celebration and Huber Park Grand Reopening. The 150th anniversary of the city's incorporation brought the community together for a parade, musical acts, historic re-enactments, a picnic, fireworks and so much more. That feeling of community continued in July and August when residents gathered for free concerts in the performance area at Huber Park. Then in early August, we came together again to celebrate Derby Days in downtown Shakopee. Having the opportunity to attend these events and many others, I must admit it was great seeing everyone have so much fun.

As summer draws to a close, we still have much to look forward to in the city. In the coming weeks, Shakopee students will be attending a new high school and ISD 720's fifth elementary school, Eagle Creek Elementary. These facilities will be a great addition to our school district. The new buildings coupled with the dedicated staff members at all our schools will help ensure that the children in Shakopee continue to receive a high quality education both now and in the years to come.

Another exciting development taking place this month is the launch of video streaming on the City's website. Beginning Aug. 21, visitors to www.ci.shakopee.mn.us can watch City government meetings either live or on demand. Now, residents and others interested in following actions of the various City government entities (including the City Council, Planning Commission, and many other committees and commissions) will have a choice of watching the meetings on the Government Access Channel on cable or online.

You'll certainly want to watch the City Council's meetings in the upcoming months. Shakopee's City departments have been hard at work during the summer months outlining 2008 budget requests. The City Council began meeting regularly in July and August to review the budget requests and ensure that spending would be in accordance with the money being brought in by the city. Now that the city's growth has settled to a more realistic pace, we've had to look even more closely at how we can best manage the resources that we have.

We'll continue reviewing the City's budget in the coming weeks and certify the preliminary tax levy for next year by Sept. 15. That dollar amount will be given to Scott County, which will issue a "Truth in Taxation" statement to residents in November. The statement will show how the proposed budget could change your taxes and how the figure compares to the current year.

Creating a city's budget is similar to creating your household budget. It's much easier when you have feedback from those involved to help prioritize what items are important. That's where you as a citizen have a role to play. Staying informed on the happenings in your city, how its budget dollars are being spent, and sharing your thoughts, comments and ideas is the best way to help the City Council represent you. The City Council and I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Shakopee Mission Statement

The Mission of the City of Shakopee is to provide the opportunity to live, work and play in a community with a proud past, promising future, and small-town atmosphere within a metropolitan setting. The city will provide customer-friendly, high-quality public services that are intended to meet the changing needs of residents and the community at large.

What's Inside-

Election information including filing for an open seat, registering to vote and finding your polling location · Watching City government meetings online · Fire Prevention Week and fire safety tips · New building code changes · Preparing for disaster with codeReady · Removing graffiti from your property · Changes to the City's ordinances on fence construction and easement encroachments and how it affects property owners.

Catch the BlueXpress Bus to Downtown Minneapolis

Catching the bus to downtown Minneapolis got much easier this summer for Shakopee and Scott County residents. The BlueXpress express commuter service, which is operated jointly by Shakopee Transit, Prior Lake Laker Lines and Scott County Transit, offers eight morning and eight afternoon runs.

All buses depart from the new, 503-stall Southbridge Crossings Transit Station Park and Ride (north of Home Depot at CR 18 and between Crossings Boulevard and Old Stagecoach Road in Shakopee) and from the Shepherd of the Lake Park and Ride (at CR 42 and McKenna Road in Prior Lake). Morning routes drop along 2nd Avenue between 12th Street and Washington Avenue in Minneapolis. BlueXpress afternoon routes pick up along Marquette Avenue from Washington Avenue to 12th Street. Each route takes approximately 50 minutes .

Riders needing mid-day service may take one of the MVTA express busses from downtown to the Burnsville Transit Station. The Dial-A-Ride will-call service can be reserved to transport riders from the Burnsville Transit Station to either the Southbridge Crossings Station Park and Ride or the Shepherd of the Lake Park and Ride. The Dial-A-Ride connection is guaranteed between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, if the ride is reserved at least one hour in advance. Call 952-496-8341 to make a reservation.

For more information about BlueXpress, including fares, schedules and holidays, call 952-496-8800 (952-496-8801 TTY) or visit www.BlueXpressBus.com. Information also is available on the City of Shakopee's website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and the City of Prior Lake's website at www.cityofpriorlake.com.



BlueXpress is operated jointly by:



Upcoming City Meetings

City Council	September 4, 18, October 2, 16, November 7 & 20
Planning Commission	September 6, 20, October 4, 18 & November 8
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	September 24, October 22 & November 26
Environmental Advisory Committee	September 12, October 10 & November 14
Telecommunications Commission	September 5, October TBD & November TBD
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission* Advisory Committee	September 10, October 8 & November 12

All meetings are held at City Hall at 7:00 PM and are televised live on Channel 16. For the most up-to-date meeting schedule, visit the City's website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click "Calendar" *The Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is not broadcast on Channel 16.

Fall Election Information

Filing for November 6th Election for Mayor and City Council Positions

The City of Shakopee will have three elected official positions opening in January 2008. They are:

- Mayor. Two-year term, expires Dec. 31, 2009.
- City Council. Two seats. Four-year terms, expires Dec. 31, 2011.

Residents may file for the Mayor or the two City Council member seats between Tuesday, August 28 and Tuesday, September 11 from 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at City Hall. The filing fee is \$5.

Required Qualifications:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. A Shakopee resident for 30 days immediately before the election.
3. Must be at least 21 years of age when assuming office.



Voting in the Election

The election will be held Tuesday, November 6. Residents wishing to vote should visit their polling place between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. to vote.

If you are unsure of your polling place, contact the City at 952-233-9300 or visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/elections.cfm, call Scott County Elections at 952-496-8560, or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us, point to "Election Center" at the top of the page, then "Voter & Election Information," and then click "Where do I vote?" Follow the instructions.

To be eligible to vote in Minnesota, you must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 18 year old on Election Day and be a resident of the state at least 20 days immediately before the election. Minnesota requires that voters be registered. You may pre-register by completing a voter registration card at Scott County Elections, City Hall or by mail. Eligible voters may register at the polls on Election Day with one of the following authorized proof of residence (please allow extra time):

- A valid MN Driver's license (or receipt) showing correct address.
- A valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt) showing correct address.
- Current registration in the same precinct indicating previous address.
- A mailed notice received from the County Auditor's Office indicating an insufficient registration.
- Registered voter in the same precinct who will vouch for the new registrant's residence.
- Tribal identification card if card bears name, current address, signature and picture.

- A Photo ID (MN driver's license, MN ID or Tribal ID) and current utility bill (utility bill must be due within 30 days of the election).

ABSENTEE VOTING:

Absentee voting is permitted if illness or physical disability prevents a voter from going to the polls, if a voter is going to be absent from the precinct on Election Day, due to religious discipline or observance of a religious holiday, or if service as an election judge in another precinct. Applications for absentee voting may be obtained at City Hall, 129 Holmes Street South, School District Office, 505 Holmes Street South, and Scott County Elections, 200 West 4th Avenue or by calling 952-233-9300.

Both City Hall and the School District Office will also be open for absentee voting on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and on Monday, Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Ballots will contain both the City election and the School Board election.

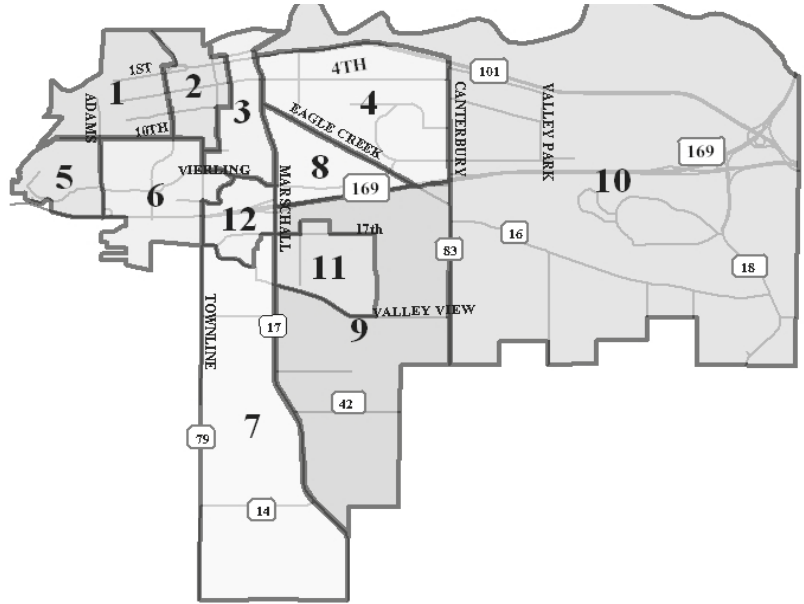
Absentee ballots will be available Friday, October 5.

Election Results

Results of the City election will be available after the polls close on the Scott County website and on the Secretary of State's website.

Fall Election Information

PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE
1	Valley View Baptist Church – 1980 West 10th Avenue
2	Shakopee Library – 235 S. Lewis Street
3	Central Family Center – 132 5th Avenue East
4	Fire Station – 2700 Vierling Drive E
5	Sweeney Elementary School – 1001 Adams Street
6	Community Center – 1255 Fuller Street
7	Faith Lutheran Church – 150 130th Street W
8	Calvary United Methodist Church – 2488 Vierling Drive E
9	Cross of Peace Lutheran Church – 1506 Wood Duck Trail
10	Red Oak Elementary School – 7700 Old Carriage Ct.
11	Shakopee Area Catholic Education Center – 2700 17th Ave. E
12	Presbyterian Church – 909 Marschall Road South



Online Streaming Video of Shakopee City Government Meetings

Shakopee City Council meetings and other City government meetings are just a mouse click away thanks to the City’s new online streaming video service. Shakopee residents, businesses and other interested individuals can visit the City’s website and watch the meetings live or on demand at a later date.

Until this service was launched, Shakopee City Council and other City government meetings were only available to the public on Government Access Channel 16 on Comcast Cable or via copies. Putting the City meetings on the web increases exposure to this information, making it readily available to all citizens, even those who do not subscribe to cable or who live outside the reach of the cable access television. With the new service, anyone, anywhere with

Internet access can watch meetings live or on-demand whenever they choose.

A convenient feature of the streaming video service is the ability to view specific segments of the meeting, instead of watching the whole meeting. This can be done in two ways—through a keyword search or by selecting a meeting topic from the drop down list in the video player. The City will provide a video on its website that demonstrates how to use these features.

The City of Shakopee began offering the live and on-demand video broadcasts with the Aug. 21 City Council meeting. All other City government meetings that are regularly recorded for the Government Access Channel will be available online as the meetings occur. Meetings that will be available include: the City Council, the Board of

Adjustment and Appeals/Planning Commission, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board, the Telecommunications Advisory Commission. Other informational videos from City departments will be added under the “Miscellaneous” section in the upcoming months.

To watch City meetings online, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the television graphic on the left side of the page or click “Video” in the left navigation column. From the new page, select a meeting to watch.



Fire Prevention Week—October 7–13

No one likes to think about fire striking their home, but being prepared could make the difference in your family's safety. One of the best ways to prepare for fire is to make and PRACTICE an escape plan. That's the key message of Fire Prevention Week 2007. The week of Oct. 7 is designated as Fire Prevention Week by the National Fire Protection Association, the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922.

Each year, Shakopee firefighters visit area schools to discuss fire safety with students in pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade. Look for them at your school and learn how to keep your family safe from fires in your home.



Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2007 NFPA

Practice Fire Safety All Year Long

Escape Plans

Has your family created an escape plan? It's as simple as walking through your home and identifying two ways out of every room (doors/windows). Draw out your escape plan and post it where everyone in the family can see it. Then practice it with the entire family at least two times a year so they become familiar with the escape route and so you can identify any problem areas before an emergency strikes. Here are some other tips to help make an escape smoother:

- Be sure to keep escape routes clear of clutter.
- If someone in your home needs help getting around, be sure to have someone assigned to assist them in case of a fire. Have a backup person ready to fill in when the first person isn't home.
- Pick an outside meeting place where everyone can gather after they've escaped.
- Make sure everyone knows that the first person to make it out of the home should call the fire department from outside or a neighbor's home.
- In a fire, always choose the escape route that is the safest. Practice getting low and crawling under smoke, in case you need to in a real fire. Be sure to close the door behind you to help slow the spread of fire and smoke.

Smoke Detectors

Spring forward, fall back and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

When you change your clocks, also change the battery in your detectors.



Working smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your home in time for you to escape. Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of your home, including the basement. Smoke detectors also should be installed in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Test your smoke detectors each month, following the manufacturer's directions, and change the batteries twice a year or when a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never borrow smoke detector batteries for another use—a disabled detector cannot save your life. If your detectors are more than 10 year old, replace them. For complete protection, consider installing automatic fire sprinklers in addition to smoke detectors.

Help Us Help You

In the event of a fire or other emergency, be sure your home or business clearly displays the address number. Address numbers need to be at least four inches high on all residential structures and six inches high on all commercial and industrial structures. Such numbers must be of an easy to read block style typeface and must be a contrasting color to the background.

If you've driven into the more rural areas of Shakopee and the surrounding townships, you may have noticed the emergency responder address signs. These are blue reflective signs that have been installed at the end of the driveways. These signs help emergency responders more easily locate an address, especially at night.

Shakopee's emergency responders ask that you make sure your address is visible and legible from the street. It can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Remember, if we can't find you...we can't help you.

More Information

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, visit the National Fire Protection Association's website at www.firepreventionweek.org. Information about the Shakopee Fire Department and helpful fire safety tips is available at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fire_department.cfm

Shakopee Implements New Minnesota State Building Code

Current and future building projects in the City of Shakopee could be affected by changes to the City's building code implemented this summer. Shakopee, like many other cities in Minnesota, updated its codes to reflect changes to the 2007 Minnesota State Building Code (MSBC) in July.

Examples of changes in the new code include:

- New requirements for emergency escape windows under decks and porches.
- Changes to the requirements for stair treads and risers.
- Changes to the guard opening limitations on stairs.
- Changes to recovering versus replacing asphalt shingles.

Contractors, builders and residents who applied for building permits before July 10 and are unsure of how the changes affect their projects should contact the City's Building Department for advice and direction at 952-233-9331, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 pm., Monday through Friday. All permit applications received after July 10 will be required to conform to the 2007 MSBC.

Upcoming City Construction Projects

Several construction projects are planned in Shakopee this fall. Following is a short description of the projects and approximate timelines:

2007 Recreational Trail Project

The City will be extending existing asphalt trails in the following locations by October.

Dean Lakes – Improvements include extension of the existing trail on the south side of Hwy. 169 to Wakefield Circle and a bridge over the Dean Lake outlet channel.

Vierling Drive– Project will complete missing trail segments on the south side of Vierling Drive from CSAH 17 to CSAH 16.

City Hall Parking Lot

In September, the pavement will be removed from the City Hall parking lot (129 S. Holmes Street). Two inches of new blacktop will be applied. Visitors to City Hall should plan to park on the street or in one of the other City parking lots located near 2nd Avenue and Lewis Street.

River District Sewer Reconstruction

Sewer reconstruction work will take place from Adams Street to Fuller Street. As a result, the Minnesota River Valley bike trail near Levee Drive will be closed periodically until October.

Questions about any of the fall projects should be directed to the City's Engineering Department at 952-233-9369.

More information about the specific changes to the MSBC is available through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's website at www.doli.state.mn.us/buildingcodes.html. Information also is available on the Shakopee Building/Inspection Division's web page at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/planning_zoning.cfm.



Be Prepared For Disaster with "codeReady"

Each year, thousands of people are affected by disasters like tornadoes, floods, fires and other emergencies. These disasters often strike without warning, requiring quick action on the part of those affected to escape injury or death. However, it's after a disaster strikes that people start to realize just how ill prepared they are to deal with the emergency.

Does your family have an emergency plan? Have you thought about how you will contact one another or where you will meet if a disaster strikes? Do you have all your medical records and supplies in an easily retrievable location—even if you are away from home? To help Minnesota residents answer yes to these questions and more, the Minnesota Departments of Health and Public Safety have partnered with a coalition of local public health and emergency response agencies to create the codeReady emergency preparedness campaign.

The codeReady website (codeready.org) provides information about the importance of preparation, as well as useful tools to help you create a customized emergency plan, build a kit of emergency supplies and connect with local resources. It identifies a variety of emergency situations, including animal or human disease outbreaks, fires and explosions, weather, terrorist incidents and more. Each topic area provides background information on the subject, a checklist of things to remember, resources for additional information and tips for getting prepared.

To learn more about codeReady and begin using its free resources, visit codeready.org. The Shakopee Police Departments also offers links to other emergency management resources at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/police.cfm.

codeReady

Get prepared.

FAQ'S

Where can I store my seasonal vehicles?

Shakopee City Code (City Code Sec. 11.61 generally) states that recreational vehicles may be parked or stored in residential districts under the following conditions:

- Unoccupied recreational vehicles that are defined by under state law as RVs, or campers that are less than 35 feet in length, may be parked either in one of the properly surfaced off-street driveway spaces or on a properly surfaced parking area that meets parking requirements for the zoning district. If parked in a location other than a driveway space, the RV/camper must be at least five feet from an interior lot line or rear lot line, and at least 15 feet from a street side lot line.
- Living quarters and businesses may not be maintained in the RV/camper.
- No more than one recreational vehicle may be parked or stored outside on a residential lot. Additional vehicles may be kept within conforming enclosed structures.
- Visitors' RVs/campers may be parked and occupied for up to 30 days while visiting the resident of the property at which they are parked.
- Continued storage of no more than two boats, utility trailers, and trailers for all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles up to 20 feet in length is permitted on lawn, turf or other parking surface so long as it is parked in a rear or side yard, and at least five feet from an interior lot line or rear lot line, and at least 15 feet from a street side lot line.

The restrictions were designed to preserve the aesthetic character of residential neighborhoods in Shakopee. For further information, you may access the Shakopee City Code at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/citycode_ord.cfm or you can contact the Planning Department at 952-233-9300 with questions or concerns regarding outdoor storage.

Graffiti Removal—What to Do?

In recent years, vandalism reports involving graffiti have increased. It has been found that the sooner graffiti is removed; the less chance there is of it returning.

Last May, the City Council updated the City Code to address graffiti removal. Under the revised ordinance, individuals whose property has been vandalized by graffiti will need to remove it within 10 calendar days of receiving notice from the City. After 10 days, the City will remove the graffiti, and the property owner will be responsible for reimbursing the City for its actual cost. Prior to removal by the City, the property owner may submit a written request for a hearing before the City Council to show why the graffiti should not be removed.

In addition to the ordinance, the Police Department has been arresting and charging offenders with criminal damage to property. The department also is working on crime prevention through environmental design in areas that frequently see graffiti.

Graffiti Removal Tips

- To paint over graffiti, first prepare the surface with a commercial paintable sealer (such as KILZ). This will seal the graffiti and keep it from bleeding through.
- A variety of cleaners are available. Determine which cleaner to use on your surface by visiting the City's website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/graffiti.cfm.
- Most graffiti removal products are toxic. Wear rubber gloves, safety goggles and an OSHA approved respirator while removing graffiti.

Hunting & Shooting Ordinances

The City of Shakopee reminds residents and visitors of the following regulations related to hunting and shooting within the City limits.

1. The shooting of shotguns with shot shells, bow and arrow or BB guns is permitted only in the following areas of the City:
 - North of the Minnesota River and West of County Road 101.
 - South of Vierling Drive.
2. Shooting is permitted only on contiguous tracts of 40 acres or more.
3. The person shooting must be the landowner or have the written permission of the landowner.
4. No firearm can be discharged within 500 feet of a building or public road.
5. Hunting with bow and arrow is allowed on property owned by Xcel Energy Power Company that is North of County State Aid Highway 16, during the Minnesota archery season for deer and with written permission from the landowner.
6. Other areas where hunting with bow and arrow or with bow and arrow and shotgun with shot shells is allowed include land East of Valleyfair and North of County Road 101. Contact 612-854-5900 for more information regarding these areas.



Recycling Reminder

Dick's Sanitation (also known as Lakeville Sanitation) provides residential garbage, bulk item pickup, yard waste and recycling services for the City of Shakopee. Residents are billed quarterly for these services. If you are experiencing service issues, please contact Dick's Sanitation directly at **952- 469 - 2239** during regular business hours.

Please sort your recycling materials into the following two categories and place in separate bags inside your recycling container. If you find that your recyclables don't fit into one recycling container, please contact Dick's Sanitation at 952- 469-2239 for an additional recycling container. There is no charge for the use of multiple containers. Recycling is picked-up every week on the same day as your regular service and should be at the curb no later than 7:00 AM.

Sort #1

Newsprint -Please bag your newsprint to prevent it from being blown around your neighborhood!

Office Paper & Junk Mail

Catalogs & Phone Books -No more than 2 per week, please.

Wet Strength Cardboard -Such as pop, cereal or beer packages. No pizza boxes, please, since they have food on them.

Corrugated Cardboard-Such as mail order or shipping boxes. Flatten and tie into 2' x 2' bundles no more than 6" thick.

Sort #2

Glass food and beverage containers -No mirrors, ceramic, window glass or light bulbs.

Plastic bottles and food containers -Such as cottage cheese or yogurt containers, pop bottles, milk jugs, etc. No Tupperware or buckets and no plastic bags.

*Please rinse all items and remove caps and rings.



New Ordinances Change Policy for Fence Construction and Easement Encroachments

In June, the Shakopee City Council adopted two ordinances that provide City departments and utility companies greater access to easements located on residents' property and require property owners to obtain fence permits before installing a new fence.

Most properties within the city contains easements, meaning that an entity, like the City or utility companies, have a limited right to use part of the property. When the property lot was being created, easements were defined to accommodate storm water runoff and utilities such as sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, electric line, gas lines, telephone lines and cable television lines. The easement also is the place where the entity can access their lines to perform inspections and maintenance.

The changes adopted in June address easement encroachments. No trees, shrubs, bushes, fences, retaining walls

or other objects are allowed in an easement unless the property owner receives written permission by the City and the encroachment is in conformance with the City's most recently adopted Easement Policy. The City can require any obstructions in an easement to be removed at the owner's expense. In non-emergency situations, the City will try to give the property owner a reasonable amount of time to remove the obstruction. However, if the property owner does not remove the obstruction as requested or if there is an emergency situation, the City can remove the obstruction and charge the property owner for the expenses. The City will not be required to compensate the owner for the cost of the repair, replacement or removal of the object.

The other change adopted in June relates to fences. Property owners wishing to install any type of fence (other than a garden fence) need to obtain a permit in advance for a \$25

fee. Once the permit application is received, the City will review the property to ensure that the placement of the fence does not obstruct a City easement. Residents who are denied a fence permit or are unhappy with staff's decision on fence placement may appeal the decision to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals within 30 days.

More information about the Easement Fencing and Landscaping Policy and fence permits is available on the Engineering and Planning and Zoning pages on the City's website (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) or by calling the Engineering Department at 952-233-9365.

