



# Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Summer 2009 UPCOMING

### June 2009

#### June 6

11 a.m., SandVenture Aquatic Park opens  
Sunset, Movie in the Park, Huber Park

#### June 27

Sunset, Movie in the Park, Huber Park

### July 2009

#### July 1

10 a.m., Happy Birthday America Parade,  
Lions Park

#### July 3

City offices closed

#### July 25

Sunset, Movie in the Park, Huber Park

#### July 29

5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Ice Arena Open House

### August 2009

#### August 4

5 p.m., Night to Unite (see page 3)

#### August 25

Election filing opens for Mayor and City  
Council seats

#### August 25

Sunset, Movie in the Park, Huber Park

## 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.

## Family Fun Close to Home

Who says you have to travel far to have summer fun. The City of Shakopee offers two family friendly venues to fill your days with adventure and your evenings with entertainment.

### Take a Splash at SandVenture

Whether you like relaxing on the sandy beach, wading in the zero-depth entry pool or sliding down the 218-foot waterslide, SandVenture Aquatic Park (1101 Adams Street) offers something for everyone. SandVenture opens for the season on Saturday, June 6.



Modeled after area lakes, SandVenture has a sand beach surrounding a sand bottom pool. The zero-depth entry eases out to a 5-foot depth, allowing visitors of all ages and swimming levels to enjoy the water safely. Adventure lovers will like the waterslide, two 12-foot drop slides and diving board.

If you're looking for added fun, check out SandVenture's special events this summer. They include reduced admission days, the Summer Splash Bash, Derby Days Splashtacular and the annual, end-of-the-season Goldfish Hunt.

SandVenture Aquatic Park will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily from June 6 - Aug. 16. From Aug. 17 -23, hours will be noon to 5 p.m.

Visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/aquaticpark.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/aquaticpark.cfm) for information about SandVenture's hours of operation, admission and season pass fees, class offerings, special events and birthday parties.

### Free Music, Movies and Plays at Huber Park

Enjoy the ambiance of watching live music, a movie or a theatrical production with the beautiful backdrop of the Minnesota River. From now through Sept. 19, come to Huber Park (150 Fillmore Street North) for free performances that the whole family will love.



Each week, the Huber Park Performance Series offers music, shows for the kids, family friendly movies or theatrical performances. Most performances are 45-60 minutes long. A complete schedule of performances is available at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/parks\\_events.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/parks_events.cfm).

Huber Park was built to be a community gathering place featuring an outdoor performance area, as well as a large playground. Restrooms and vending machines are available in the support building. All you need to bring is your blanket or lawn chair.

In case of inclement weather, performances will be canceled and rescheduled at the end of summer. Call the weather hotline at 952-233-9502.

# Tate Named New Police Chief

Jeff Tate, an 11-year veteran with the Shakopee Police Department, assumed the role of Chief of Police/Emergency Management Director on June 1. Tate replaces Chief Dan Hughes, who retired at the end of May.

Chief Tate started with the Shakopee Police Department as a Patrol Officer in 1998. Since that time, he has progressed through the leadership ranks in the department leading or overseeing most all roles in the field and in the office. In 2006, he was named the department's first Police Captain. In this role, he was able to hone his administrative skills and further establish relationships in the community. Chief Tate is a graduate of the 228th session of the FBI National Academy and recently completed his Emergency Management Certification.

"I know I have big shoes to fill following Chief Hughes, a leader who was well respected both in the community and the department," said Chief Tate. "He left me with a department of highly skilled professionals who are wonderful people. I hope to build upon their strengths and continue to improve the services they provide to the public."

Chief Tate oversees 47 sworn officers and 9 civilian staff members. Like his predecessor, he would like the department to continue focusing on two priorities – remaining a customer service driven organization and building and maintaining partnerships in the community.

"I'm excited about this opportunity and the responsibilities it presents," said Chief Tate. "I can think of no better place that I'd like to be. This is a great community to serve."



## Street Reconstruction Coming to a Location Near You

As you drive around town this summer, watch for road construction and detour signs. The City has identified two street projects that will affect drivers.



Street reconstruction is planned on:

- Spencer Street from Shakopee Avenue to 10th Avenue;
- Shakopee Avenue from Clay Street to Pierce Street;
- Clay Street from Shakopee Avenue to South of 10th Avenue; and
- Pierce Street from 6th Avenue to 10th Avenue.

The project, which will last most of the construction season, will include reconstructing the driving surfaces, extending the sidewalk on Spencer Street and making improvements to the water main, sanitary sewers and storm sewers.

Several streets will also be resurfaced this summer, including parts of Shenandoah Drive, 4th Avenue, 13th Avenue, Stagecoach Road and Boiling Springs Lane. Resurfacing a street helps extend its life and reduce annual maintenance needs such as pothole patching and crack sealing. This work is expected to be completed over several weeks.

Residents and property owners in these areas have been notified of scheduled work. Learn more at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/street\\_closings.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/street_closings.cfm).



## Planning an Outdoor Project?

Whether you're installing new landscaping, repairing or replacing a fence or adding a deck, don't forget to check with the City first. Many residents don't realize that there are easements on their property and City policies regulating what can and cannot be done.

A great place to start your project research is the Outdoor Projects web page at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/outdoor\\_projects.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/outdoor_projects.cfm), which has links to information about building inspections and permits, easement encroachments, tree and landscaping permits and placement guidelines, and fencing policies and permits. There are also contact phone numbers for the various City departments that oversee these areas.

Save some money and headaches by checking the site before starting your project.

## News & Notes

### Green Spring Cleaning

Now you can do your spring cleaning and keep the environment safe, too. Check out the Green Spring Cleaning Tips on the City's website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/natural\\_resources.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/natural_resources.cfm).

### Got Geese?

Whether you love them or loath them, geese are a part of Minnesota's natural habitat. Find out why you shouldn't feed them and how to deter them from visiting your pond, lake or yard at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/nr\\_wildlife.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/nr_wildlife.cfm).

# ★ Night to Unite: Neighbors Joining Together ★



On Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 5-9 p.m., the City of Shakopee will participate in the 1st annual Night to Unite celebration. This event takes the place of National Night Out.

Although the name has changed, the purpose for the night has not. Residents are encouraged to turn on their porch lights, come outside and spend the evening with their neighbors.

Events can range from a simple conversation over the back fence to block parties, potluck dinners, youth contests and visits from the Shakopee Fire, Police and Public Works Departments or elected officials.

Neighborhoods planning activities should register their event by downloading a registration form from the City's website ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd\\_NighttoUnite.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_NighttoUnite.cfm)) or calling 952-233-9400. The completed form may be submitted via email to [bclark@ci.shakopee.mn.us](mailto:bclark@ci.shakopee.mn.us), by fax to 952-233-3811 or by mail/in person to Shakopee Police Department, Attn: Crime Prevention Unit, 475 Gorman Street, Shakopee, MN 55379. The registration deadline is July 24. Registration is free. Only registered events will receive barricades for the street or visits from City Departments.

Event organizers may also use the event to help others by collecting canned or nonperishable food items during the event. The Police Department will pick up the donations throughout the evening and deliver them to the local food shelf.

The Police Department has a limited number of door hangers available to help residents advertise their events. Stop by the department during regular business hours to pick up the hangers (while supplies last).

The City's Night to Unite web page ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd\\_NighttoUnite.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_NighttoUnite.cfm)) has tips and ideas for planning your upcoming event. You can also learn more about Night to Unite on the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's website at [www.mncpa.net](http://www.mncpa.net).



[www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us)

## City of Shakopee

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### Councilor Steven Clay

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### Councilor Patrick Heitzman

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### Councilor Terry Joos

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### City Hall

Administration • Planning/Zoning • Building/Inspections  
129 S. Holmes Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone .....952-233-9300

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### Community Center

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Phone .....952-233-9500

TTY .....952-496-4122

Fax .....952-233-3831

Email .....parks@ci.shakopee.mn.us

### Police Department

475 Gorman Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone .....952-233-9400

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Comments or suggestions on the *Hometown Messenger* should be directed to the editor at [lcram@ci.shakopee.mn.us](mailto:lcram@ci.shakopee.mn.us)

## Unite Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 5-9 p.m.

### Catch the Summer Shuttle

Shakopee Transit's Summer Shuttle is back to transport riders between local shopping centers and area attractions from June 1 through Sept. 4. View the schedule at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/transit.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/transit.cfm) or call 952-496-8341 with questions.

### Youth Curfew Reminder

Minors under age 18 are not allowed on city streets or in public places between 10:30 p.m. and 5 a.m., unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Curfew hours are in effect every day of the week. Learn more at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd\\_services.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_services.cfm).

# Important News

The office of Mayor and two City Council seats will be up for election this fall (November 3). All three positions will take office in January 2010. Following are the term details for each position:

Mayor – Two-year term, expires Dec. 31, 2011.  
City Council – Four-year term, expires Dec. 31, 2013.

Residents may file for the Mayor and two City Council member seats between Tuesday, Aug. 25 and Tuesday, Sept. 8, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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.

Learn more about these positions at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us).



## SHAKOPEE

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## Message from the Mayor

### Weathering the Economic Storm

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

The nation's current economic situation has affected almost everyone-- individuals, businesses and the government. For several months, the City of Shakopee has been considering how the recent downturn could change our service offerings, but we are fortunate compared to some of our peers.

This has been a perfect storm for cities. Previously, the State of Minnesota provided two funding sources to help cities balance their budgets and offer municipal services – Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credit. Many cities are scrambling this year as the State has had to reduce or eliminate these funding sources to help tackle its own funding shortfalls. These eliminations coupled with decreasing property tax revenues have left many cities in a bind.

Shakopee has always taken a conservative approach in its budgeting, which will help to lessen the blow of reduced property values. Since Shakopee hasn't received LGA since 2003, we were not expecting those funds. In addition, the City did not rely on Homestead Credits when we created the 2009 budget.

That being said, several hard choices will need to be made for 2010, and the years beyond. City residents are encouraged to be active participants in the budget planning process. You can watch the City Council meetings in person, on Cable Channel 16 or online ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us)). In addition, you can learn more about the budget situation by visiting the "Budget Corner" page ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/budgetcorner.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/budgetcorner.cfm)) on the City's website. Please contact the City with your questions or suggestions at 952-233-9300, or email [budget@ci.shakopee.mn.us](mailto:budget@ci.shakopee.mn.us).



Mayor John J. Schmitt