



## Message From the Mayor

### *Writing the Next Chapter in Shakopee's History*

By Mayor John J. Schmitt



During 2007, we not only celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shakopee's incorporation as a city in 1857, but we also started a new chapter in the City's history. As we glance at the first page of this chapter, we get a glimpse at what the City's next 150 years might hold.

It's hard to reflect on 2007 and not recall the many openings of and enhancements to area parks and trails. We celebrated the grand opening of several neighborhood parks; a new support building and enhancements at SandVenture Aquatic Park; and new lighting and updates to Tahpah Park and the Joe Schleper Stadium. The reopening of Huber Park in June with the volunteer-built playground, new outdoor performance area, trail access and support building restored the park to its community gathering place status. Residents and guests attended the many free concerts, performances, activities and events held at the park during the summer and fall. In September, residents had another trail option when work was completed on the Southbridge -Dean Lake Bridge and Trail Connection.

The City's dedication to its parks and trails system will continue with several other openings planned in the future, including an off-leash dog area, the Providence-Westchester "Active Use" Park (with ball fields, ice skating and a playground) and many more neighborhood parks.

This year, the City also worked to enhance communications with the public by introducing three online offerings. Early in 2007, the City began posting City Council agenda packets and the City Code in an electronic document library on its website ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us)). With a click of a mouse, the public now has access to the agenda and the supporting documents that the City Council members use when making decisions. Interested members of the public no longer have to watch the Government Access Channel to follow City government meetings. A new on-demand service on the City's website allows users to watch meetings online live or at a later date. Best of all, users can "jump" to different sections of the meetings and watch only the parts in which they are

interested. This fall, the City also introduced an online registration program for Parks and Recreation classes and activities. The activities in this brochure will be some of the first that you can register for electronically.

Technology will continue to play a major role in the City's future. Shakopee, our neighboring cities and the county have begun construction on a new 800 MHz communications system to enhance emergency communications. Part of this project will include the installation of and transition to Scott County's fiber network. Ultimately, the fiber network will provide Shakopee, the other cities and the county with a more efficient and cost effective way to manage video, voice and data communications.

Transportation was another area of great importance to the City in 2007. In mid-July, Shakopee opened the Southbridge Crossings Transit Station and began offering the Blue Express Bus Service to downtown Minneapolis. This service, which is operated jointly by Shakopee, Prior Lake and Scott County, provides eight morning and evening trips to approximately 350 to 450 riders.

Shakopee will continue to take an active role in transportation options and planning. Especially when more discussions are had and decisions are made on a river crossing through Chaska in the next few years.

These are just some of the highlights of 2007; however, there were many other exciting happenings for our community. The City and School District welcomed the addition of the new high school on 17th Avenue and the new Eagle Creek Elementary School at CR 16 and Pike Lake Trail. We also saw forward movement on the construction of the Joint Fire and Police Training Facility (located near Jordan) for the county; the opening of several new retail outlets, including a Best Buy; and so much more.

As our City continues to grow and change, it becomes more important that its citizens are active participants. There are a variety of ways to stay involved, from watching or speaking at a City meeting, to serving on a City board or commission, to running for an elected position. The choice is up to you. This is your City, and you can help control what direction it will head and what this next chapter of history will hold.

# What's Inside-

City Elected Officials for 2008-09; Upcoming City Meetings; City Releases 2008 Budget Information; Winter Parking Regulations; FAQ on Winter Responsibilities; City Looking for Candidates to Serve on Boards and Commissions; Tree Recycling; Engineering Update; What You Need to Know When Finishing Your Basement; Snowmobile Safety; Opening of City's Transit Station.

## Meet Your Elected Officials of 2008-2009

### Mayor John J. Schmitt

1015 S. Main Street  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Home Phone: 952-445-4296  
Email: jschmitt@ci.shakopee.mn.us  
First Took Office: January 1, 2004  
Term Expires: December 31, 2009



### Councilor Steven Clay

120 East 8th Avenue  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Home Phone: 952-445-6214  
Email: sclay@ci.shakopee.mn.us  
First Took Office: January 1, 2006  
Term Expires: December 31, 2009



### Councilor Terry Joos

886 Carriage Circle  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Home Phone: 952-445-2011  
Work Phone: 952-828-7344  
Email: terryjoos@hotmail.com  
First Took Office: January 1, 2002  
Term Expires: December 31, 2009



### Councilor Matt Lehman

815 East 8th Avenue  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Home Phone: 952-496-2069  
Email: MattLehmanSr@comcast.net  
First Took Office: November 2001  
(to fill vacant seat)  
Term Expires: December 31, 2011



### Councilor Patrick Heitzman

1166 Monroe Street  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Takes Office: January 1, 2008  
Term Expires: December 31, 2011



## Upcoming City Meetings

City Council	December 4 & 18, January 2, 15, February 5 & 19
Planning Commission	December 6, January 3, February 7
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	December 17, January 28, February 25
Environmental Advisory Commission	December 12, January 9, February 13
Telecommunications Advisory Commission	December 5, January 23, February 27
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission*	December 10, January 14, February 11

All meetings are held at City Hall and typically begin at 7 p.m. Meetings are televised live on Channel 16 and on the City's website. For the most up-to-date meeting schedule, visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) and click "Calendar."

\*The Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is not broadcast on Channel 16 or the City's website.

## City Releases Preliminary 2008 Budget and Tax Levy

Putting together Shakopee's annual budget is a multi-step process that begins in June and ends with the adoption of the final figures in late December. This process touches every department in the City as staff members try to anticipate needs for the next year, while considering the financial impact that requests could have on the bottom line.

The budget process began in early summer when each City department submitted requests for the 2008 annual budget and the five-year capital improvement program. In August, the City Council held budget workshops where Councilors reviewed the funding requests and obtained additional information from the departments. In September, the City Council certified a maximum tax levy amount for the next year. The preliminary 2008 tax capacity based levy was \$14,000,255, which was a 12 percent increase over 2007. It represents no change in the tax rate for the City's portion of property taxes to be paid by Shakopee property owners; therefore, any change in the amount of property taxes to be paid will depend upon whether the parcel had a change in its valuation.

This preliminary levy was sent to Scott County so it could issue Truth in Taxation statements to City taxpayers during the month of November. These statements allow property owners to see how the proposed budget could change their taxes, and how the levy amount compares to the current year. These figures represent the largest potential amount of a property tax increase, which could be reduced depending on further deliberations by the City Council.

The next step in the budget process is a public hearing, called the Truth in Taxation hearing. This meeting will be held Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. City residents are invited to come and express any questions or concerns they have about the proposed budget. Following the hearing, the City Council may make additional changes. It must adopt a final budget by no later than Dec. 21.

### Highlights from the 2008 Budget

The preliminary 2008 budget includes funding for:

- Two additional Police Officers.
- One full-time Fire Chief.

In response to a slow down in the housing market, three full-time position equivalents in the City have been eliminated, either through lay-off, transfer or attrition. Further reductions may be considered.



### Truth in Taxation Meeting

Shakopee property owners and residents are invited to share their thoughts on the proposed 2008 City budget.

Monday, Dec. 3

7 p.m.

City Council Chamber  
Shakopee City Hall



**Can't make the meeting?  
Watch it live on Cable  
Channel 16 or on the City's  
website  
([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us)).**

### 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.

## Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect

From Nov. 1 through March 31, there is no parking on any city street from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. This ban applies regardless of the day of the week, side of the street or presence or absence of snow.

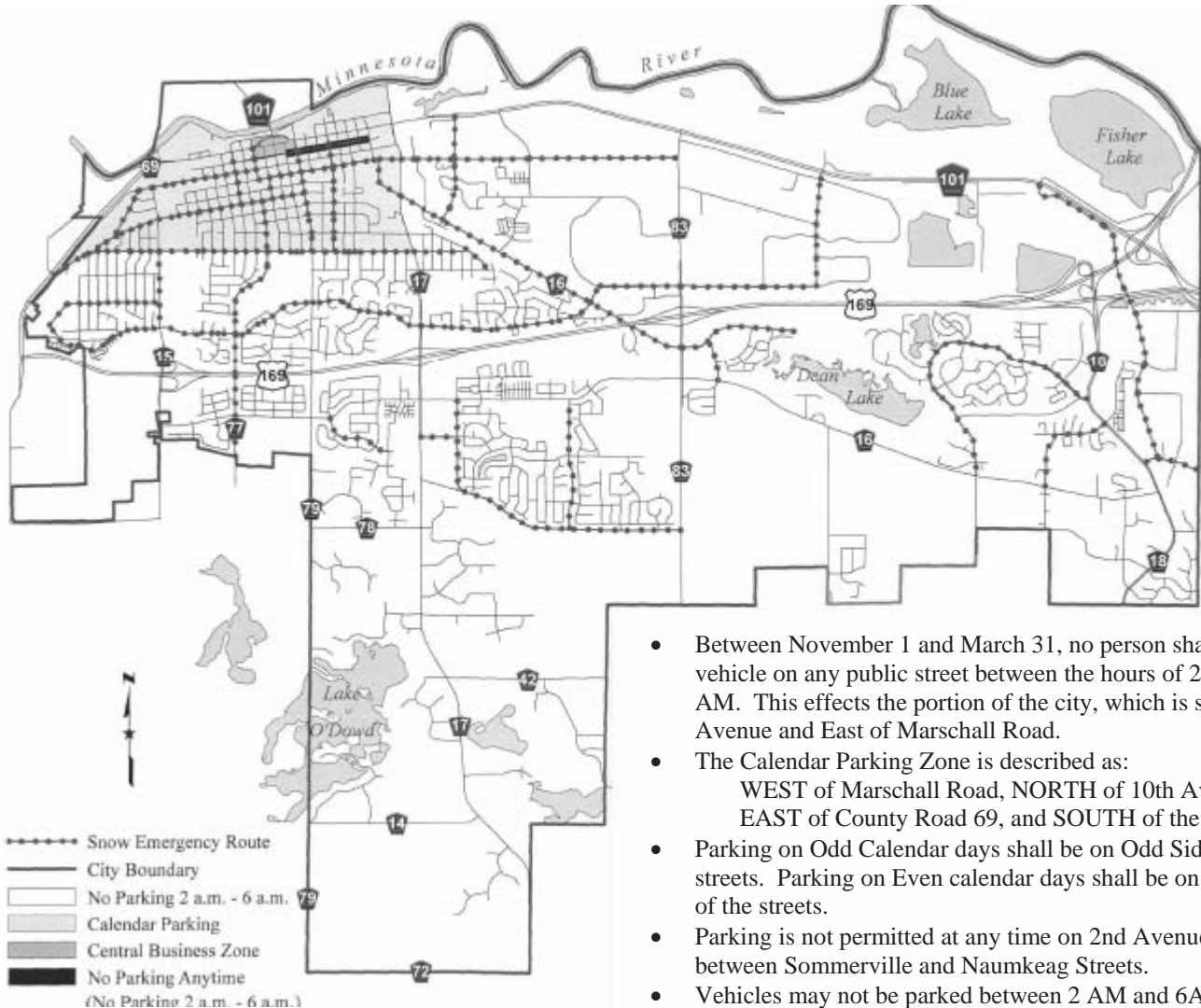
There is one exception – odd/even parking rules apply in the area bordered by the Minnesota River on the north and 10th Avenue on the south, and by Marschall Road on the east and County Rd 69 on the west (see map). Between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

on even numbered days (Dec. 2, 4, 6, etc.) parking is allowed on the even-numbered side of the street. On odd numbered days (Dec. 1, 3, 5, etc.) parking is allowed on the odd-numbered side of the street.

After a snowfall of two inches or more or when the City Administrator declares a snow emergency, the previously stated parking restrictions are effective 24 hours a day or until the snow has been plowed from curb to curb.

**Warning:** Vehicles parked in violation of these rules shall be tagged and subject to towing at the owner's expense.

The regulations can be found in Chapter 9 of the City Code. For further questions, please contact the Shakopee Police Department at 952-233-9400.



# FAQS

## What is the City's plan for clearing streets during a snowfall?

In general, the City's Public Works Department determines its street clearing method based on the amount of snow that has fallen. When the accumulating snow is less than 2 inches in depth, the department normally operates a sanding/salting operation only, focusing on certain intersections, hills and curves and other areas that historically freeze and drift. When a snowstorm produces 2-8 inches of snow, the department operates a plowing and sanding operation. All main arterial, collector streets and snow emergency routes will be cleared first. Next, the local streets, cul-de-sacs and downtown parking lots are done. When a snowstorm produces more than 8 inches in a 24 hour period, the plows will follow the same procedures as the 2-8 inch snow; however, they will continue plowing streets several times during the duration of the storm.



Please remember, not all streets in Shakopee are maintained by the City. Some are maintained by the County (i.e. County Road 17, County Road 16, Spencer St. south of 11th Avenue and County Road 101), others are highways maintained by the State of Minnesota (i.e. Highway 169, Highway 101 and Highway 300), and some are private streets (street signs are brown with white lettering) that are maintained by a neighborhood association.

## What requirements are there for property owners pertaining to snow removal?

Snow removal and ice control on residential sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owners adjacent to the sidewalks. Commercial property owners must remove snow within 24 hours. Residential and other property owners must remove snow within 36 hours.

When removing snow from sidewalks or driveways, the snow needs to be placed on the property or the boulevard area adjacent to the property. Property owners are NOT allowed to push snow into or across the street for any reason. Owners should remind hired snow removal service providers of this ordinance, as it applies to them as well.

If your mailbox is located in the City owned right-of-way adjacent to the street curb, it is your responsibility to clear the snow away from the mailbox. Snow plow operators are instructed to get as close to the curb as possible without striking the mailbox; however, there can be a lot of snow piled right in front of the mailbox, making it difficult to access.

Residents are asked to install flexible, reflector markers directly behind the curb in areas such as cul-de-sacs, curves and corners. The markers will help the snowplows identify these areas and hopefully reduce or prevent turf damage.

Markers are available at most hardware or home improvement stores.

If plowing activities occur on the day of garbage pick up, the Public Works Department asks that you place garbage containers back from the curb or further back in the driveway to avoid contact with snowplows.

## Who is responsible for replacing property that is damaged by a snow plow?

The City is not responsible for damage that occurs to landscaping, lawn sprinklers, exterior lighting systems or any other object that is installed or encroached on a City owned right-of-way. The property owner assumes all risk of damage for items placed in the right-of-way. The City, at its option, will repair or replace turf only on City owned right-of-way that is removed as the result of City plowing activities.

In most cases, mailbox and stand replacement is the responsibility of the property owner or owners. This is especially true if the mailbox stand has deteriorated or if the stand is not sturdy enough to survive cold temperatures or heavy snow. However, if the mailbox and stand were in good condition and then struck directly by a snow plow, then the City would be responsible for the replacement.

## Show Your Civic Pride by Serving on a City Board or Commission

If you've ever wanted to take a more active role in your community, here's your chance. The City of Shakopee has numerous advisory boards and commissions that consider matters involving the City and make recommendations to the City Council.

The following boards and commissions meet regularly: The Police Civil Service Commission, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustments and Appeals, the Environmental Advisory

Committee, the Telecommunications Advisory Commission, the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, The Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Transit Commission.

In January, the City will begin advertising for positions that will be expiring so interested residents can apply to fill the openings. Terms for the boards and commissions usually run for three years beginning in March. To serve on a board or commission, an applicant must be a Shakopee resident

and have a sincere desire to spend the time to participate as needed.

If you have time and an interest in serving your community in a volunteer capacity on any of these boards and commissions, please consider applying. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/board\\_commissions.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/board_commissions.cfm), or by calling 952-233-9300.

## Christmas Tree Collection and Holiday Refuse Schedule

As you begin decorating your house for the holidays, it's hard to imagine that in a few short weeks, you'll be taking everything down again. When you're ready to dispose of a live Christmas tree or holiday wreath, Dick's Sanitation, the City's refuse and recycling provider, will help.

Residential collection of trees and wreaths will take place January 7-18. All plastic bags, tinsel, ornaments or other decorations must be removed from the tree/wreath.

Dick's Sanitation will not provide service on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Trash pick-up will be delayed by one day during those weeks. For more information, contact Dick's Sanitation at 952-469-5161.



## Engineering Department Update

This fall, the Engineering Department completed several projects that will provide residents with new roadways, enhance the City's trail system and improve sewer services. Following is a brief summary of the projects:

### Pike Lake Road Extension

In mid-October, the City opened Pike Lake Road from CSAH 16 to Southbridge Parkway, presenting area residents another route to more easily access HWY 169. The road extension also will provide access to the future fire station site, which is planned for CSAH 21 and Southbridge Parkway/Pike Lake Road. This multi-step project has been in the works for five years and has required coordination with the developer, City staff, county staff and wetland agencies.

### 2007 Recreation Trail Project

This project includes enhancements to the Vierling Drive Trail and the Dean Lake Trail. The asphalt on the Vierling Drive Trail was extended 5,000 feet from just west of Ruby Lane to Eagle Creek Boulevard. The area of the Dean Lake Trail from Wakefield Circle was extended 2,200 feet to the west and included the addition of a 90 foot pedestrian bridge over the Prior Lake Outlet Channel. The project was completed in late September, and both trails are open for public use.



Completed bridge project- Dean Lake Trail.

### River District Sewer Improvements

For several months this year, the Minnesota Valley Bike Trail was closed sporadically for sewer improvements in the River District area. The City was replacing the old sanitary sewer interceptor line and existing storm sewer from the area west of Rahr Malting to the old Hwy 101 Bridge. These enhancements will protect the riverbank, which had been eroding at the site of the sewer line, and should reduce sewer treatment costs. The project has been a work in progress for almost 10 years. However, actual line replacement began two years ago when Phase 1 (east from the 101 bridge to the mobile home park) was completed. Then in 2006, Phase 2 (mobile home park south to the railroad tracks) was finished. The third and final phase was completed in early November.

### City Hall Parking Lot

Resurfacing and concrete repairs were completed to the existing parking lot at City Hall. These improvements will add life to the lot, provide a smooth driving surface and improve drainage. This project was completed ahead of schedule and the lot was reopened on October 4.

For more information about the City's Engineering Department and the services it provides, visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/engineering.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/engineering.cfm).

## Tree Trimming

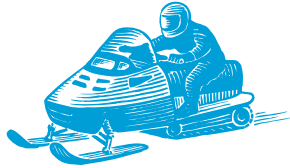


The Street Department will be trimming boulevard trees and trees adjacent to sidewalks as time and weather permit this winter. Low branches overhanging the streets can damage emergency vehicles and street maintenance equipment.

## Snowmobiling Safety

Before you pull out your snowmobile this winter, be sure you know where it is safe and legal to drive.

Snowmobiles are permitted to operate within the City limits only to travel from the operator's residence to outside the City or from outside the City to the operator's residence. In traveling to and from the City limits, snowmobiles must follow the shortest route to the nearest Trail System Access.



Snowmobiles must use the paved streets. Snowmobiles are prohibited from using boulevards, sidewalks, bike paths, alleys, City parks or ponding basins, and school and City property. Riders are permitted on private property ONLY with the owner's permission. A map of snowmobile trails in Shakopee is available on the City's website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/trails.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/trails.cfm).

For more information, visit the River Valley Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club website at [www.rvtb.org](http://www.rvtb.org) or contact the Shakopee Police Department at 952-233-9400.

## SNOW FORT SAFETY

### Parents:

Children love to build snow forts, and the most common place to build a fort is in a big pile of snow. However, the pile of snow made by plows is dangerous.



Make sure your children's snow fort is moved well back from the street and driveway. This is important because snow plow drivers cannot see the children in the fort if the fort is next to the street.

Have a wonderful and safe winter!

City of Shakopee  
Public Works  
Department  
400 Gorman Street  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Phone: (952) 233-9550



## Cities and County Celebrate Transit Station's Grand Opening

BlueXpress Bus riders and other interested residents were treated to food, refreshments, live music and lots of giveaways during the grand opening celebration of the Southbridge Crossings Transit Station on Oct. 3. The transit station is located north of Home Depot at CR 18 between Crossings Boulevard and Old Stagecoach Road in Shakopee.

The celebration began early in the day as morning riders were able to meet with transit officials from Shakopee, Prior Lake and Scott County and enjoy coffee and donuts before taking the BlueXpress bus to downtown Minneapolis. Later that afternoon, officials from MNDot, the Metropolitan Council, Scott County, Shakopee and Prior Lake gave remarks about the collaborative effort that made this transit station and express bus service to

downtown possible. The day culminated with music, appetizers and refreshments for riders returning on the buses.

The Southbridge Crossings Transit Station and the Shepherd of the Lake Park and Ride (CR 42 and McKenna Road in Prior Lake) began offering the BlueXpress Bus service to Minneapolis in mid-July. Approximately 350-450 riders use the service each day. Currently, the BlueXpress Bus makes eight morning and evening trips. 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 buses 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 Transit Station or the Shepherd of the Lake Park and Ride.

The Dial-A-Ride 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](http://www.BlueXpressBus.com). Information also is available on the City of Shakopee's website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) and the City of Prior Lake's website at [www.cityofpriorlake.com](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com).



## Follow Your City Government's Meetings by Watching Online

Shakopee residents have a new, more convenient way to follow the happenings of the City Council and several other City boards and commissions with the online streaming video service added to the City's website ([www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us)) in August. Shakopee residents, businesses and other interested individuals now can visit the City's website to watch a meeting live or on demand at a later date.

All City government meetings that are regularly recorded for the Government Access Chan-

nel on cable TV are available online as the meetings occur. Regular meetings include: the City Council, the Board of Adjustment and Appeals/Planning Commission, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Telecommunications Advisory Commission. Other informational videos from City departments will be added under the "Miscellaneous" section in the upcoming months.

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 through a keyword search or by selecting a meeting topic

from the drop down list in the video player. A video under the "Miscellaneous" section demonstrates how to use these features.

To watch City meetings online, visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us) and click the television graphic on the left side of the page. From the new page, select a meeting to watch.



## Building Permit Needed to Finish Basement

If you're planning to finish your basement or another room in your home this winter, don't forget to stop by the City's Building Department to obtain a building permit. A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction on a project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. This process will provide assurances that your project meets minimal building codes and other zoning regulations that may apply.

To obtain a permit, stop by City Hall (129 S. Holmes St.) between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to pick up a building permit application and

informational materials. Please note, separate permits are required for plumbing, fireplace and electrical work. Complete the application(s) in full and submit it with any required supporting documents. Next, a Building staff member will review the applications and plans. When your permit is approved, you will be contacted with the fee amount and instruction for picking up your permit. The review/approval stage usually takes two to five working days. Once you have your permit, you may begin your project.

During the construction process,

you will have access to an experienced code official to assist you with questions or concerns regarding your project and to help you avoid costly mistakes. You'll also have on-site inspections at different times during the construction and at the end to identify any items not up to code.

For more information about building permits and finishing your basement, please visit the City's website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/planning\\_zoning.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/planning_zoning.cfm) or call 952-233-9338.



## Tips to Keep Your Home and Family Safe from Fire this Winter

When the weather grows colder outside, the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning increases. Taking a few simple precautions could help protect your family and your home from these winter dangers.

- Do not warm up vehicles in an attached garage.
- Never burn candles unattended and keep combustible materials away from the flame.
- Keep space heaters at least two feet from combustible items.
- Have your wood burning fireplace chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday decorations.
- Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and replace the batteries at least once per year.
- Make sure your address is visible from the street.