



# Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 4, Issue 3

## Autumn 2011 UPCOMING

### September 2011

- 2-5 Labor Day Weekend**, City offices are closed Monday, Sept. 5. The Community Center is closed from 4:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 5.
- 6 School Starts**, watch for kids going to school or the bus

### October 2011

- 1 1-4 p.m.**, Fire Department Open House, 2700 Vierling Drive
- 9-15 Fire Prevention Week**
- 21 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**, Senior Expo, Shakopee High School
- 29 9 a.m.**, Jack o'Lantern 5K & Kids Pumpkin Run, Community Center
- 30 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, Scary Skate & Spooky Family Fun Night, Community Center

### November 2011

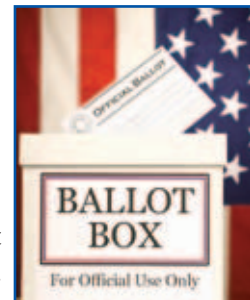
- 1 Winter Parking Regulations begin**
- 8 General Election**, polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 24-25 Thanksgiving**, City Offices and Community Center Closed

## 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.

## Mayor and City Council Seats to be Decided at NOVEMBER ELECTION

Shakopee voters will once again help shape local government and the school board at the Tuesday, Nov. 8 General Election.



The City will have three elected official positions on the ballot at the election. They are mayor (two-year term from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2013) and two City Council seats (four-year terms from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015).

The following individuals have filed for office and will be on the ballot:

Mayor – Brad Tabke, John J. Schmitt

City Council – Premm Badhwa, Eric Timothy Brown, Patrick Heitzman, Matt Lehman, Mike Luce, Suresh Nair, Mark Reimler, Jay Whiting and Amy Zellmer

### Registering to Vote

Residents who are not currently registered to vote may pre-register by Oct. 18 by mail or at the Scott County Elections Office, 200 Fourth Avenue W. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen who will be at least 18 years old on Election Day and who has been a Minnesota resident at least 20 days before the election. Eligible voters may register at the polls on Election Day with authorized proof of residence (allow extra time).

### Absentee Voting

Persons who expect to be absent from the precinct on Election Day (i.e., vacation, illness, disability, religious discipline/observance of religious holiday, or service as an election judge in another precinct) may vote absentee in person or by mail. Absentee voting will be available at Scott County Elections from Sept. 23 through Nov. 7 during regular business hours. In addition, Scott County Elections will be open Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 7 until 5 p.m. for absentee voting. Absentee voting is no longer available at City Hall.

### Meet the Candidates

The Shakopee Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a candidate forum on Wednesday, Oct. 19 for City Council candidates and on Wednesday, Oct. 26 for Mayoral candidates. Both forums will be held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall and will be televised live and replayed through Election Day on Shakopee Government Access Cable Channel 16.

### Election Day

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To locate your polling place, visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> or call Shakopee City Hall at 952-233-9300 or Scott County Elections at 952-496-8560.

# Preventing Sewer Backups

Sewer backups can occur in any home. Although they are uncommon, the damage they cause can be significant and messy. Before a problem occurs, check with your insurance agent to see if you have coverage with your policy, especially if you have finished areas on the same level as your sewer drain.

## Who's Responsible?

The City is only responsible for sewer backups that are caused by negligence in maintaining the system lines. Backup damage caused by vandalism or people dumping grease, diapers or other materials in the system will not be covered by the City's insurance.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair and cleaning of the service line from the house to the City main line.

## Prevent a Backup

Diapers, paper towels, rags, large amounts of food and cooking grease should not be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system.

## A Backup—Oh No!

If you experience a sewer backup, immediately contact the Public Works Department at 952-233-9550 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., or Scott County dispatch at 952-445-1411 after hours. The City provides a brochure on how to clean up after a sewer backup on its website at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/publicworks.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/publicworks.cfm), under the "Useful Tips for Residents" section, click "Sewer Backup Information."



# IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME: Be on the Lookout for Students

Although it feels like we've been planning for Back to School for months now (thanks to retailers), Shakopee Public Schools (and many of the other local private schools) officially start Tuesday, Sept. 6. Help kids arrive to and from school safely by watching for them and slowing down as you drive by schools and in neighborhoods.

## New Routes

With the redrawing of school boundaries and the opening of Jackson Elementary, many of the usual bus and walking routes in your neighborhood and throughout the city may be altered. Students in these areas also may have different start times than last year. Just like students and their parents, motorists will need to take a few weeks to learn the new routine.

## Student Safety Tips

- Wait for the bus on the side of the road, in a driveway or out of the way of traffic.
- When crossing busy streets, stay in the marked crossing zones. If there is not a crossing zone, cross at the nearest intersection.
- Walk on the sidewalk when possible, but when walking on the street, walk against traffic.
- If you ride your bike, wear a helmet, use reflectors and follow the rules of the road (signal turns, yield the right of way and obey traffic signals). For more bike safety tips, visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd\\_bikesafety.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pd_bikesafety.cfm).



## Tips for Motorists

- Watch for students near schools and where bus stops are located.
- Slow down to the posted speeds in school zones, and always give pedestrians the right of way.
- Be alert to bikes or kids darting in front of traffic.
- Remember school bus laws – Don't pass a school bus on the right side when the amber lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended; stop at least 20 feet from a stopped school bus; do not pass a school bus when a child is outside the bus on the street or highway; and remain stopped until the amber lights are turned off and the stop arm retracts.

# News & Notes

## Text a Police Tip

Need to send a tip to the police? You can text it anonymously from your mobile phone by texting the word "spdtips" and the tip information to tip411 (847411). Regular texting fees apply. Voicemail tip lines are available at 952-233-9499 and 1-800-222-TIPS. Don't use any of the tip reporting mechanisms for emergencies; instead call 9-1-1.

## Storm Water Pollution

Water flowing into storm drains and sewers often feeds into the nearest body of water. That water can easily be polluted with herbicides, pesticides, yard waste, pet waste and run off from roofs and driveways. Help reduce the amount of pollution your household adds to these bodies of water by visiting [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pollution\\_prevention.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/pollution_prevention.cfm) for tips and information.

# Protect Your Family from Fire

Fire Safety Week is Oct. 9 – 15, and this year's theme is "Protect Your Family from Fire." In 2010, the Shakopee Fire Department responded to 557 calls for service. While these calls run the gamut from false alarms to traffic accident assistance to actual fires, the Fire Department's goal is to reduce the number of fires and the number of people injured or killed by fire.

Throughout October, the Fire Department will visit area elementary schools to share fire safety tips. Residents also are invited to learn more about the Fire Department at the annual Open House on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the 2700 Vierling Drive E Station.

Even if your children aren't visited by a firefighter at school, there are things you can do to help protect your family from fire.

- Develop and practice an escape plan. This is important while you are at home or when you are staying somewhere else. Identify two exits for each room and establish a meeting point for your family.
- Have working smoke alarms. Your risk of dying in a fire decreases significantly if you have working smoke alarms with fresh batteries. Be sure to test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries annually.
- If possible, install sprinkler systems. Sprinklers may extinguish a fire completely or contain it by reducing the heat, flames and smoke, allowing people more time to escape the home.
- Use caution while cooking. Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and related injuries. Most of these fires occur when cooking equipment is left unattended. There are more fires caused by electric stoves/ovens than gas ones.
- Other fire prevention items to watch for include heating equipment, smoking, electrical distribution, open flames and lit fires and candles.

Learn more fire prevention tips at [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fire\\_tips.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/fire_tips.cfm) or at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).



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

## City of Shakopee

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### Councilor Patrick Heitzman

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### Councilor Matt Lehman

Email .....MattLehmanSr@comcast.net

### Councilor Pamela Punt

Email .....ppunt@ci.shakopee.mn.us

### City Hall

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

Phone .....952-233-9300

TTY .....952-233-3837

Fax .....952-233-3801

Email ...administration@ci.shakopee.mn.us

### Community Center

1255 Fuller Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

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

TTY .....952-233-9491

Tip Line .....952-233-9499

Email .....police@ci.shakopee.mn.us

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)

### Hunting and Shooting Reminders

Hunting season soon will be here. Hunting is allowed in limited areas of the city. Before you head out, be sure you know the City of Shakopee's hunting and shooting ordinance. Visit [www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/hunting.cfm](http://www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/hunting.cfm) for hunting and shooting regulations, links to maps and information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### Keep Hydrants Clear

Help firefighters find hydrants more easily during an emergency by keeping a three-foot clearance around them that is free of plantings or snow. During winter months, remember to shovel a pathway around the hydrant and to the street.



### Move Over Law Reminder

When you see an emergency vehicle (towing vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances and fire trucks) parked on the side of a roadway, Minnesota statute requires you to leave the lane closest to the emergency vehicle open, when possible. The law also requires drivers to reduce their speed as they pass the location of the emergency vehicle(s) and road repair equipment.

The “move over” law is also known as the Ted Foss Law. It was written after Minnesota State Trooper Ted Foss was hit and killed by a semi-truck on August 31, 2000, during a traffic stop. The law is designed to give emergency vehicles room to work on the portion of roadway they are occupying.

Postal Customer

ECRWSS

## Message from the Mayor

### A Report on the 2010 Census

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

Census results are coming in, and the numbers confirm much of what we thought about Shakopee's growth during the past decade.

In 2000, Shakopee had 20,568 residents and 7,540 households. Ten years later, the population has grown to 37,076 and 12,772 households—that's an increase of more than 80 percent! The number of people per household rose 6 percent from 2.66 to 2.83.

While our residents' average age (32.2) has increased only slightly in 10 years, we've seen the greatest growth in the 0-9 age group (up 2 percent) and the steepest decline in the 20-29 age group (down 4 percent). The two largest age groups continue to be 30-39 (20 percent) and 0-9 (19.2 percent) year olds.

In recent years, we've noticed more culturally diverse families making Shakopee their home. Census data confirms this shift. The percentage of residents who are white was 89.6 in 2000 and 74.3 in 2010. To ensure our community continues to meet the needs of all residents, our new cultural makeup must be considered when planning for services and offerings.

The number of jobs in Shakopee has risen approximately 31.5 percent from 2000 to 2009, with a slight decrease in recent years due to the economic downturn. Based on those 2009 numbers, the average number of jobs per household is 1.44. Annual average wages have jumped from \$35,432 in 2000 to \$41,968 in 2009 – still much higher than the Scott County average of \$31,706 and \$38,306 respectively.

For more information on the 2010 Census results, visit the Met Council's website ([www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org)), click “Data+Maps” and then “Community Profiles.”



Mayor John J. Schmitt