



Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 4, Issue 4

Winter 2011-12
UPCOMING

December 2011

- 6** 7 p.m., Public Hearing on 2012 City Budget, Shakopee City Hall
- 18** 1-2:30 p.m., Skate with Santa, Shakopee Ice Arena, regular admission rates apply
- 23-26** City offices close at noon on Dec. 23; City offices and Community Center closed Dec. 24, 25 & 26; Ice Arena open Dec. 26 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 31** 2-5 p.m., Jack Frost's New Year's Eve Party, Lions Park, free

January 2012

- 1** Community Center closed; Ice Arena open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 2** City offices closed; Community Center open
- 9** Christmas tree recycling begins, call 952-469-5161 to schedule pick up
- 16** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** City offices closed; Community Center open

February 2012

- 20** **Presidents Day.** City offices closed; Community Center open

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.

RESIDENTS TO SEE CHANGES IN 2012 TAXES

City Councilors have been working with staff to determine the 2012 budget and property tax levy. In September, the City Council approved a preliminary tax capacity levy for 2012 of \$14,992,000. This is a 2.4 percent increase over 2011. This amount may still decrease before the final budget vote scheduled for Dec. 6; however, it cannot increase.



The City has held its levy flat the last several years, but many items have been identified that require attention in 2012. They include:

- The City needs to plan for and build a reserve to replace aging capital infrastructure like streets, sidewalks and drainage systems. The request for this funding source is proposed in the 2012 budget.
- The demands on our paid, on-call Fire Department staff have grown with our increasing population and expanding service area. We are researching ways to improve fire response times.
- For several years, a 47th patrol officer position has been budgeted for but not filled. This position will be filled in early 2012.

To help offset some of these expenditures, the City has benefitted by being able to reduce the amount we are obligated to pay for the Fire Relief Pension (due to market return results – this cost can vary greatly each year and is determined by a formula provided by the state). Additionally, all departments have presented lean and reduced budgets for 2012.

This month, property owners should receive a Proposed 2012 Property Tax Statement from Scott County. This statement shows individual property owners how the proposed levies from the City, Scott County and Shakopee Public Schools will affect their taxes and how the proposed 2012 amounts compare to 2011.

Property owners will likely see a greater variance in their taxes from 2011 to 2012. Earlier this year, the Minnesota Legislature eliminated the Market Value Homestead Credit and enacted the Market Value Homestead Exclusion Credit. The legislation changed the formula used to calculate city and county taxes. As a result, even if these government entities held their tax levies flat, the formula change will likely increase taxes for many property owners. The amount of the increase will vary based on the property's classification (residential, non homestead, agricultural, commercial, etc.) and market value adjustments. These changes are reflected in the Proposed Property Tax Statement.

The City will hold a public hearing on the 2012 budget on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Residents are invited to come learn more and to share feedback on the 2012 tax levy.

Keep the Holidays Safe and Merry

There's no place like home for the holidays, but our décor, plans and actions could put our home, our families and our identities at risk for fire or theft. So celebrate the holidays safely by remembering these safety tips.

- **Don't Overload Your Lights.** Holiday lights brighten the spirits and the home, but overloaded outlets and not using extension cords correctly could cause a fire.
- **Watch those Candles.** Keep them out of reach of children, make sure they are not near flammable items and liquids, and never leave them unattended.
- **Water that Tree.** Live Christmas trees should be watered regularly to keep them from becoming too dry. Dry trees burn much faster in a fire.
- **Don't Announce Holiday Trips to Thieves.** Never announce on Facebook or other social media sites that you'll be traveling for the holidays. You never know who might access your page or read information from a friend's comments. Consider using timers for your lights and having a neighbor check on the house while you're gone.
- **Be a Cautious Shopper.** Whether you shop online or in person, always be cautious and guard your personal and credit card information carefully. If retailers don't seem trustworthy or if their website isn't secured on the order page, you may want to reconsider doing business with them.

Winter Parking Q&A



What are the City's Winter Parking Regulations?

Winter parking regulations are in effect from Nov. 1 to March 31. During these months, there is no parking on city streets from 2 to 6 a.m. (except as noted in the next paragraph).

However, in the area of Shakopee that is bordered by the Minnesota River on the north and 10th Avenue on the south, and by Marschall Road on the east and CR 69 on the west, odd/even parking rules apply. On even numbered days between 2 and 6 a.m., parking is allowed on the even numbered side of the street. On odd numbered days, parking is allowed on the odd numbered side of the street at those times.

Who is responsible for clearing specific roadways?

In all, the City's Public Works Department clears more than 150 miles of roadway during a storm. Scott County maintains county state aid highways (including Marschall Road) in the city, and the state plows Hwy 169. Neighborhood associations clear private streets.

How do heavy snowfalls affect snow plowing efforts?

After a snowfall of two or more inches, plowing and salting operations begin on the main arterial roads, collector streets and emergency routes. Next, local streets, cul de sacs, alleys, parking lots and certain sidewalks and trails are cleared.

During these heavier snowfalls, parking restrictions are effective 24 hours a day until the snow has been plowed curb to curb. Additionally, there is no parking on emergency routes during a snow emergency. Vehicles violating these regulations will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

As a property owner, what are my clearing responsibilities?

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow/ice on sidewalks adjacent to residential properties within 36 hours and commercial properties within 24 hours. Do not push snow into the street. Property owners also should clear snow around fire hydrants and mailboxes adjacent to the street.

Where can I learn more?

Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/parking.cfm for the City's Winter Parking Regulations and Snow Plowing Policy.

News & Notes

Christmas Tree Recycling

Dick's Sanitation will pick up live Christmas trees on your regular trash collection days beginning Jan. 9. There is a \$5.50 fee per tree. Trees should be free of decorations and not be in a bag. Schedule your pickup by calling 952-469-5161. Townhome residents may also have their Christmas trees recycled by calling the same number.

Snowmobile Reminders

Snowmobile riders are encouraged to check out www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/trails.cfm before taking the first ride of the season. The website shows where it is safe and legal to ride and reminds riders of the speed limits. Additional information is available from the River Valley Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club at www.rvtb.org.



Your 2012 City Council

On Nov. 8, Shakopee voters filled two City Council seats and the Mayor's seat due to expiring terms. Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, the following individuals will serve on the Shakopee City Council:

Mayor: Brad Tabke

City Councilors: Steve Clay
Matt Lehman
Pamela Punt
Jay Whiting

Many thanks to John Schmitt and Patrick Heitzman who will be leaving their roles as Mayor and City Councilor at the end of 2011. Their many years of service to Shakopee residents are greatly appreciated.

In January 2012, the Mayor and City Council will meet to begin outlining the Goals and Objectives for the City for the upcoming years.

Get the Latest News from the City



If you'd like to receive news updates from the City of Shakopee between issues of the *Hometown Messenger*, several electronic media options are available.

To get City news delivered to your Facebook wall, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the "Find Us on Facebook" box in the lower left corner. From here, you can click the "Like" button at the top of the page. Links are also available on that page for the Shakopee Parks and Recreation, Shakopee Ice Arena, Enigma Teen Center and Shakopee Fire Department Facebook pages. Again, click "Like" on any of those pages to receive their updates.

The Government Access Channel also publishes links to City produced videos using Twitter and YouTube. To follow these updates, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click the Twitter or YouTube links.

Want the latest City News delivered to your inbox--then sign up for our e-newsletter at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/enews.cfm. There are e-newsletters for general City news (delivered every three weeks), as well as monthly updates from the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department.

Toy Collection Sites

The City of Shakopee will have holiday toy collection bins at City Hall, the Shakopee Community Center and the Police Department to benefit local families served by the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (www.southernvalleyalliance.org). Drop off is available during regular business hours through Dec. 12. Toys should be new, unused and unwrapped.

Clear Your Hydrants

After accumulating snowfalls, please take a few minutes to clear the snow around your nearest fire hydrant. During an emergency, precious minutes are lost when firefighters have to clear snow to access the hydrant. If possible, dig a pathway around the hydrant and to the street. Questions, call 952-233-9570.



www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

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Comments or suggestions on the *Hometown Messenger* should be directed to the editor at lcram@ci.shakopee.mn.us

City Board and Commission Openings

After the holiday season, the City of Shakopee will begin advertising for residents to apply for openings due to expiring terms on the following City boards and commissions:

Planning Commission/BOAA, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Shakopee Public Utilities Commission, Police Civil Service Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Telecommunications Advisory Commission, Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, Transit Commission, and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Information about the boards and commissions is available at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/board_commissions.cfm.

Applications will be available after the first of the year at City Hall and online. Interested individuals should return their application to City Hall by Jan. 30.

For more information on the openings or the application process, please call 952-233-9300.



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Message from the Mayor

Economic Development Important to Shakopee

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

Economic development and job creation can be a major boon for growing communities like Shakopee. It provides employment for residents, attracts non-residents to our community, and supplies a stronger tax base for the City to help maintain and enhance our current infrastructure.

While Shakopee is fortunate to be home to multiple entertainment venues, has six retail centers, and houses a strong industrial park (Valley Green) and industrial base, there is always room for improvement. The City of Shakopee has partnered with Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) to take a closer look at enhancing economic development in the area and to help meet the goal of providing enough employment in Scott County to support 50 percent of the county's labor force. The City's Economic Development Advisory Committee continues to develop Shakopee's marketing plan.

One possible role of the City is to extend incentives to companies hoping to start up, relocate or expand a business in Shakopee. In addition to offering a more business-friendly infrastructure (accessibility to major roadways and building space), Shakopee also has a business development toolkit, which can include Tax Increment Financing (TIF), tax abatement, Economic Development Authority loan funds, SAC credits, and job partnership training grants from the State of Minnesota. These incentives allow us to attract potential businesses, without emptying the City coffers.

This year, we have responded to four inquiries from firms looking to build a new manufacturing or warehousing facility. We currently are working with two of them and are monitoring a third. We're hopeful that these relationships (and others in the future) will develop into good paying job opportunities for residents.

As we transition to new leadership in 2012, please know it has been an honor to serve as your Mayor the past eight years. Thank you!



Mayor John J. Schmitt