



Hometown Messenger

A Quarterly Publication by the City of Shakopee

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall 2008 UPCOMING

September 2008

Huber Park Performances & Movie in the Park. See schedule at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

Sept. 1 Labor Day, City Offices Closed

Sept. 9 Primary Election

Sept. 27-28 Shakopee Fire Department's 125th Anniversary Celebration, Vierling Dr. Fire Station

October 2008

Oct. 5-11 Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 17 8 a.m.-1:15 p.m.,
Senior Expo, Shakopee High School

Oct. 30 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Scary Skate, Shakopee Ice Arena

November 2008

Nov. 1 Winter Parking Regulations Begin

Nov. 4 General Election

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day, City Offices Closed

Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving, City Offices 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.

Shakopee Fire Department 125 Years of Protection and Service

For 125 years, Shakopee's residents and businesses have benefitted from a brave group of volunteers who risk their lives and give of their time to keep the city safe from fire. This month, we will celebrate the Fire Department's history and service to our community.

In its early days, Shakopee didn't have a fire department. Instead a bucket brigade of residents and business owners fought fires as best as they could.

That changed after fires in the 1870s destroyed many homes and businesses. The Common Council of the City created Shakopee's first volunteer fire department in 1883. The department's first station was housed in the lower level of City Hall at 2nd Avenue and Lewis Street. In 1955, the station moved to 2nd Avenue and Scott Street. Today, the City still operates that station and has added another at 2700 Vierling Drive E.

Early firefighters, most of whom were business owners or City Council members, were truly volunteers who served for no pay. Minimal pay of \$.25 per hour was added later, and today that amount has grown to \$10 per hour.

These first firefighters had to haul their equipment to the scene of the fire in carts and then find a water source (the river, ponds, wells or cisterns). Through the years, transportation methods (fire trucks) and water sources improved, but fires were still plentiful.

The Shakopee Fire Department has been challenged by many devastating fires. Some memorable fires include the 1958 Schesso-Hughes Auto Dealership fire, where Shakopee lost its first and only firefighter (Max Wermerskirchen) in the service of the department. On July 4, 1973, fire broke out at Pollution Control Inc., and hundreds of 55 gallon barrels exploded during the 10 hour inferno. In August 2005, the Shakopee Fire Department was joined by more than a dozen neighboring departments as they fought to save historic St. Mark's church from fire.

The public is invited to celebrate the Shakopee Fire Department's proud history on Sept. 27-28 at the Vierling Dr. Station. Events include an open house, a bucket brigade, the Firemen's Challenge, water fights, a musical performance and a parade. The 125th Celebration is sponsored by the Shakopee Fire Relief Association. Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us for details.



Celebrate the Shakopee Fire Department's proud history
Sept. 27-28, 2008

Coleman Named Full-Time Fire Chief

In May, Rick Coleman, a 21-year veteran with the Shakopee Fire Department, was named its first, full-time fire chief.

Chief Coleman started as a paid, on-call firefighter in 1987 and has served as assistant chief, training officer, second, third and fourth captain and assistant engineer. He also worked full time as the service manager for Quality Forklift for the last 12 years.

In his new role, Chief Coleman provides a voice and representation to the Fire Department in the City's government. "By building camaraderie between the Fire Department and the rest of the City, we can move forward and accomplish goals in the best interest of residents, the City and the Fire Department," said Chief Coleman.

He also manages the department's budget, its operations and 50-plus firefighters. This can be quite a task considering that the department responded to 609 calls in 2007 and serves a 67 square mile area that extends into Louisville and Jackson Townships.

Another priority for Chief Coleman is continued training for firefighters. Each firefighter is required to attend one training session per month. This additional training prepares them for the other services the department provides, including: containing hazardous material spills, water rescues, high-level or confined space rescues, and offering medical assistance to Allina or the Police Department.



Casting Your Vote

Before you vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday, Sept. 9 and the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, there are several important things you should know.



U.S. citizens, who are at least 18 years old on Election Day and who have been a resident of Minnesota at least 20 days before the election are eligible to vote; however, they must be registered. If you are not registered, you can preregister until 20 days before the election by completing a voter registration card at the Scott County Elections office (200 W. 4th Ave.), City Hall (129 S. Holmes St.) or by mail. Eligible voters may register at the polls on Election Day with an authorized proof of residence (allow extra time).

**POLLS
WILL
BE
OPEN
7 A.M.
TO
8 P.M.**

On Election Day, polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To locate your polling place, contact City Hall at 952-233-9300 (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us), Scott County Elections at 952-496-8560 (www.co.scott.mn.us) or the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us (Click "Voting & Election Information," then "Voting Information" and then "Where do I Vote.").

Employers are required by law to allow eligible voters to vote during the morning of the General Election, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages because of the absence.

Absentee voting is available for persons who are unable to vote during the Primary or General Elections. Applications for absentee voting are available at City Hall or Scott County Elections. Both locations will be open extra hours for absentee voting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6 and Nov. 1, and from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8 and Nov. 3.

Election results will be available after the polls close on the Scott County website and the Secretary of State's website.

To learn more, visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us and click "Election Information" in the left column.

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

News & Notes

Refuse Services

Dick's Sanitation provides residential garbage and recycling services for the City of Shakopee. City Code requires all residential properties of three-units or less that have municipal water and sewer service to have refuse service from Dick's Sanitation. It also requires Dick's to continue providing refuse pick-up even to those who have fallen behind on their bills. Unpaid bills are then assessed

to the resident's annual property tax bill in September of each year. If you have questions or concerns regarding the status of your account with Dick's Sanitation, please call 952-233-9369 prior to Sept. 15.

Storing Recreational Vehicles

Shakopee's City Code (Section 11.61) defines the locations and restrictions on where residents can store their recreation vehicles (RVs,

Online Class Registration Available

Residents interested in enrolling in a Park and Recreation class this fall have four ways to register—online, by mail, by fax or in person. The online registration service (www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/onlineregistration.cfm) was introduced with the Fall Class Schedule, which came out in August.

To register online, first call 952-233-9500 for a user name and password. This information can be used to register for current offerings and future ones. Next, log in to the secured site and select classes by adding them to the shopping cart. To complete the transaction, enter credit card information and follow the onscreen directions. A confirmation will be emailed within 24 hours.

For more information, call 952-233-9500.



www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

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129 S. Holmes Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

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Community Center

1255 Fuller Street • Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone 952-233-9500

TTY 952-496-4122

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Email parks@ci.shakopee.mn.us

Police Department

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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.



Hunting & Shooting REMINDERS

As you prepare for hunting season, be sure to reference the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook. The City of Shakopee also has several regulations relating to hunting and shooting within city limits.

1. The shooting of shotguns with shot shells, bow and arrow or BB guns is permitted only in the areas north of the Minnesota River and west of County Road 101 or south of Vierling Drive and County State Aid Highway 16.
2. Shooting is permitted only on adjoining or continuous tracts of 40 acres or more.
3. The person shooting must be the landowner or have 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 Northern States Power Co. north of County State Aid Highway 16 during the Minnesota archery season for deer 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.

boats, trailers, all terrain vehicles, etc.). Visit www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/planning_zoning.cfm and click "Recreational Vehicle Storage" in the left column to learn more.

Foreclosure Prevention Services

The Carver County Community Development Agency provides free foreclosure counseling to residents of Scott and Carver Counties. For information, call 952-448-7715.

Sewer Backups

Though uncommon, most any home could experience a sewer backup. Before a problem occurs, check with your insurance agent to see if you have coverage with your policy. The City is not responsible for sewer backups, unless they are caused by negligence in maintaining the system lines. Learn more at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/publicworks.cfm.

Important News



SHAKOPEE

129 S. Holmes Street
Shakopee, MN 55379

Residents will soon be able to see how safely they are driving in certain school zones. Shakopee Crime Prevention Inc. kicked off its school safety project and will mount a speed monitoring radar unit on Marschall Road by Shakopee Middle School. This first unit was made possible by a donation from St. Francis Medical Center.

The radar monitoring units are effective in reducing traffic speeds during school hours and reminding motorists of the speed limit. Shakopee Crime Prevention Inc. is seeking funding for two additional units to be placed at other high traffic school zones.

With the school year just getting under way, please remember to slow down in all school zones (whether radar is operable or not) to help keep our kids safe.

Postal Customer

Message from the Mayor Black and White Squad Cars Return

by Mayor John J. Schmitt

Have you noticed more black and white police cruisers patrolling Shakopee's streets? In 2005, the Shakopee Police Department decided to return to the "retro" look of black and white patrol cars.

More metropolitan police departments are converting from their solid color cruisers to black and white cruisers because surveys have shown that these colors are more identifiable as law enforcement vehicles. There's an argument that more noticeable law enforcement presence can help to deter crime.

Squad cars normally are used four years before they are recycled and used elsewhere in the City vehicle fleet. Instead of repainting existing squad cars in the new color scheme, Shakopee has changed the colors as the cars are replaced. We are now nearing the end of that conversion process. This year, when the newest squad cars are put into service, all of our cruisers will be black and white and carry a new design that focuses on the department's mission statement stressing integrity and professionalism.

This is just one of many ways the department focuses on crime prevention. Some of the other programs include: **Neighborhood Watch**—Citizens serve as the eyes and ears of the neighborhood and report suspicious activities; **National Night Out**—Neighbors forge relationships with each other and the Police Department; and **Crime Free Multi-Housing**—Law enforcement and rental property managers partner to help keep drugs and illegal activity out of rental properties.

Learn more about these and other programs at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us/police.cfm.



Mayor John J. Schmitt