

Winter 2007



CITY OF SHAKOPEE

Hometown Messenger

City Releases Preliminary '07 Budget and Tax Levy

In September, the City Council approved a preliminary 2007 tax capacity based levy of \$13,094,800, which was a 22.6 percent increase over 2006. This would translate to a 17.1 percent increase in the City's portion of property taxes to be paid by Shakopee property owners. These are the figures that were included when determining the Truth in Taxation notices that are mailed to local property owners in mid-November.

That figure reflects the maximum amount the City may levy in taxes, but does not account for the reductions made by the City Council at an Oct. 24 workshop meeting. At that time, the City Council reduced the proposed tax capacity-based levy to a 17.0 percent increase, meaning a property-tax impact on property owners of an 11.1 percent increase on the City's share of the property tax bill.

On Monday, Dec. 4, the Truth in Taxation hearing will be held by the City Council. As a result, the City Council may choose to make other changes before the final budget and levy are adopted in mid-December.

Members of the City Council set the maximum tax levy in September so as to maintain as much flexibility as possible in budget planning. Shakopee's proposed maximum tax rate of 33.668 ranks just below the metropolitan average and near the middle when compared to surrounding cities.

If the maximum tax levy is adopted, it will fund 64 percent of the City's 2007 General Fund operating budget. The primary sources for the remainder of budget funds will come from licenses and permits and charges for services.

The preliminary budget for 2007 includes funding for new staff positions, including one police officer, two public works employees, one GIS position, one police support staff person and one Fire Department clerical employee who is set to begin in July. It also will fund a new radio system for the Police and Fire departments that will enable the Public Safety personnel to access a new countywide communications system. Finally, the budget also includes Shakopee's share of annual funding for a joint Public Safety training facility, which will be partnered with Scott County and other municipalities in the county.

The City's budget process began in early summer, when each City department submitted requests for the 2007 annual budget and the five-year capital improvement program. In August, the City Council held budget workshops and reviewed the funding requests of the various departments. By Sept. 15, the City Council was required by law to certify a maximum tax levy for the next year. That levy amount was given to Scott County, which issues Truth in Taxation statements to City residents during the month of November. These statements allow tax payers to see how the proposed budget could change their taxes, and how that figure compares to the current year.

City residents are invited to provide input on the tax levy at the Truth in Taxation hearing at 7:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4 at City Hall. This hearing also will be broadcast live on Shakopee Government Access Television, Channel 16. Following that hearing, the City Council will make any necessary changes and adopt a final budget and tax levy by no later than Dec. 19.

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 its residents and the community at large.

17th Avenue Expansion Completed

After years of planning and construction, City of Shakopee and Scott County officials opened the last segment of the 17th Avenue expansion at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 83 to traffic Oct. 30. The roadway now runs 3.5 miles from CSAH 15 to CSAH 83, connecting commercial centers, the future high school and residents south of Highway 169.

The 17th Avenue corridor has been completed in phases, as commercial and residential development occurred in the area. The final segment, the realignment of CSAH 16 with 17th Avenue, was originally proposed as a study in an update of the 1997 Transportation Plan associated with the city's Comprehensive Plan. In 2001, with the proposed the Dean Lake Business Park and the CSAH 83/CSAH 16 project, the city and county agreed to complete 17th Avenue to CSAH 83 by 2006. Since the roadway was built as the areas around it were developed, the City was able to assess much of the costs for the road to the various developments, thus saving City and county funds.



City of Shakopee and Scott County officials open the final segment of 17th Avenue at CSAH 83.

Park & Ride Work Begins

Work is underway on the city of Shakopee's and Scott County's first transit park and ride station. The site, located north of Home Depot on County State Aid Highway 18, will provide surface parking for approximately 500 vehicles. Initial clearing and preparation of the site is complete, and construction of the parking lot, bus lane and shelters will begin later this year. The park and ride is expected to be completed and available for use by June 2007.

Once the park and ride opens, both the city of Shakopee's Shakopee Transit and Prior Lake's Laker Lines will operate express bus service from the site to downtown Minneapolis up the 169 corridor.

City Seeks Transit Commission Members

Shakopee residents can now have a voice in transit issues facing the community. The city has reinstated the Transit Commission and is looking for residents who would be interested in serving as a member. Applications are available at the City Hall or by calling 952-233-9316.

For more information on the commission and its duties, contact Michael Leek at mleek@ci.shakopee.mn.us or 952-233-9346.

Watch City Government Meetings at Home

City residents who are unable to attend a City Council meeting in person can still watch the meeting live on Shakopee Government Access Television, Channel 16. In fact, the station broadcasts live meetings for several City commissions and boards.

Following is a tentative monthly schedule of live broadcasts (all meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.):

City Council	December 3, 19, January 2, 16, February 6 & 20
Planning Commission	December 7, 21, January 4, 18, February 8 & 22
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	November 27, December 18, January 22
Environmental Advisory Committee	December 13, January 10 & February 14
Telecommunications Commission	December 6, January 3 & February 7
Historic Preservation Advisory*	December 11, January 8 & February 12

Rebroadcasts of most meetings are shown throughout the month. For a complete schedule of shows, visit the City's website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us. Point to "Resident's Guide," then click "Public Access & Government Television," and then the weekly broadcast schedule link.

*The Historic Preservation Advisory meetings are not televised.

FAQ'S

Who is responsible for plowing the street that I live on?

Not all streets in Shakopee are maintained by the City. Some are county roads, some are private, and others are highways maintained by the State of Minnesota.

Marschall Road (County Road 17, Eagle Creek Blvd (County Road 16, Spencer Street (south of 11th Avenue), County Road 101 are a few of the county roads that are plowed by Scott County. If you have questions about snow removal operations on these roads, call 952-496-8346

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) plows and maintains Highway 169, Highway 101 and Highway 300. Questions about plowing should be directed to MnDOT at 651-296-3000.

Private streets are not maintained by the City of Shakopee. Street signs for private streets are brown with white lettering. If you have questions regarding plowing these streets, contact your Homeowners Association.

My mailbox/mailbox stand needs to be replaced, whose responsibility is that?

In most cases, mail 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 by a snow plow, then the City would be responsible for the replacement.

What time is open skating at the Shakopee Ice Arena?

Open skating is available at the Shakopee Ice Arena on the following dates and times: Sundays, December 3–January 14 from 1:00– 2:30 PM. There are also special dates and times throughout the winter months. More details on open skating are available in the Ice Arena section of this brochure as well as on the City's website.

I own a dog and live within city limits am I required to purchase a dog license?

The City of Shakopee requires licenses for all dogs age 6 months or older. Licenses are good for two years and cost \$20. Replacement licenses are available for \$5 if the original is lost or damaged.

License applications can be obtained at Shakopee City Hall, 129 S. Holmes St. Applications can also be found on the website. All license applications must be accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination from a licensed veterinary clinic and a check for the required fee.

If you have any other questions concerning dog licensing or rules, please call City Hall at 952-233-9300.



We're on the Web-
www.ci.shakopee.mn.us

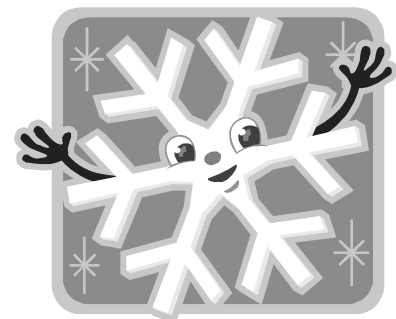
Winter Responsibilities

When property owners remove snow by either snow blowing, shoveling or plowing, the snow needs to be placed on to their property or boulevard area adjacent to their property. Property owners are not allowed to push snow onto or across a street for any reason. Owners are encouraged to remind hired snow removal services of this ordinance, as it applies to them as well.



The City is not responsible for damage that occurs to landscaping, lawn sprinklers, exterior lighting systems or any object that is installed or encroached on City owned right-of-way. The property owner assumes all risk of damage for items placed in City owned 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.

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



Winter Parking—The Ins & Outs

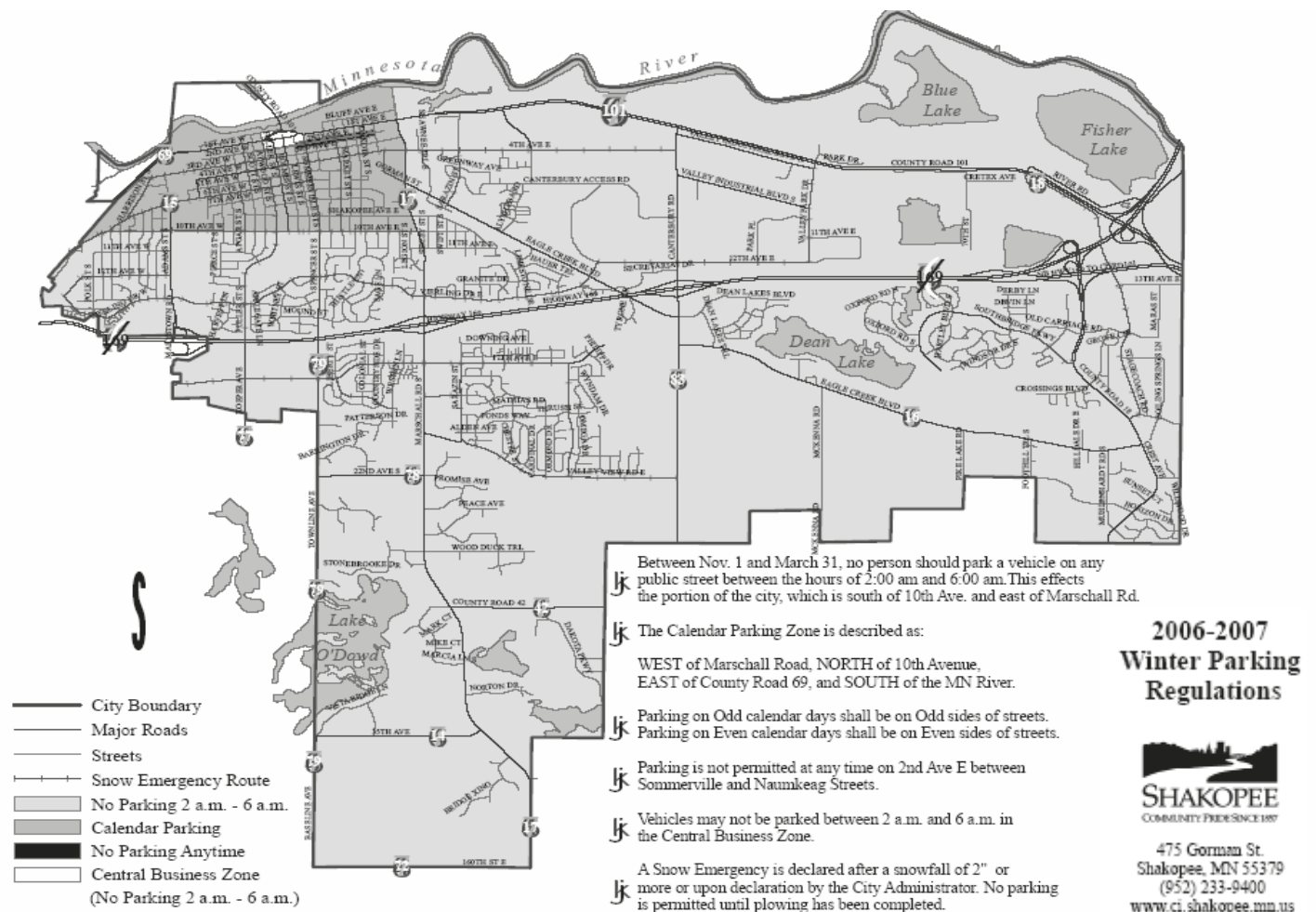
**Effective
November 1 – March 31**

There is **No Parking** on any City street from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. This ban applies regardless of the day of the week, side of the street or the 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 Ave. on the south, and by Marschall Rd on the east and County Rd. 69 on the west. (see map below) Therefore, between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on even numbered days (Dec. 2, 4, 6, etc.) you may park only on the even-numbered side of the street. On odd numbered days (Dec. 1, 3, 5, etc.) you may park only 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 above 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 on our website at www.ci.shakopee.mn.us under Chapter 9 of the City Code.

For further questions, please contact the Shakopee Police Department at 952-233-9400.

Avoid Car Theft

The City has an ordinance (Section 9.42) prohibiting drivers from leaving their vehicle unattended while the motor is running or the keys are in the ignition (without the engine running).

Many motor vehicle thefts occur because the drivers leave the engine running while they go inside for just a few minutes. Police also are routinely called to check on children who are left alone in a running vehicle while their parent or caretaker goes inside a convenience store or elsewhere for a quick errand. Unfortunately, car thieves steal running vehicles, even with children in them.

The best way to keep children and vehicles safe is to turn off the engine, remove the keys, secure valuables, lock the car and take the children inside for the errand.

SNOW FORT SAFETY	
<p>PARENTS- As everyone knows, 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 can be dangerous. Make sure your children's snow fort is moved well back from the street and driveway. This is important because plow drivers cannot see the children in the fort if the fort were next to street. Have a safe and wonderful winter!</p>	 <p>City of Shakopee Public Works Department 500 Gorman Street Shakopee, MN 55379 Phone: (952) 233-9550</p>

Winter Storage for Paints & Garden Chemicals

As you finish winterizing your home don't forget about the paint cans and garden chemicals that you have in your garage. Proper chemical storage is important for protecting the health of everyone in your home. It also protects the environment and preserves the quality of the products.

Most water-based products (latex, caulk, driveway sealer, etc) will be useless to you next spring if they are exposed to freezing temperatures. Store these items in your garage or dispose of them properly.

Pesticides should always be stored in their original containers, making sure the product label remains legible. It's also a good idea to date the container so that you maintain a record of how long you have had the product.

Homeowners should try and store the leftover chemicals in a secure, dry and well vented area that is protected from extreme temperatures. Fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides and herbicides should be stored separately. The storage area also should be enclosed so leaks or spills can be contained and cleaned

without affecting surrounding soil or ground water. It's also recommended that cleaning supplies be stored close by so any leaks and spills can be quickly addressed.

Now that your garage is ready for winter—sit back, enjoy the snow and **THINK SPRING!**



Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips – Know the Dangers

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. If breathed into the body, the CO combines with the blood and prevents it from absorbing oxygen. When this oxygen-deficient blood reaches the heart and brain, it can damage those organs and cause illness or even death.

The physical symptoms of CO poisoning depends on the amount in the bloodstream. Mild exposure can cause a slight headache, nausea, blurred vision, vomiting, fatigue or flu-like symptoms that disappear when the person breathes fresh air. Moderate exposure causes drowsiness, severe headache, confusion and rapid heart

rate. Severe exposure causes convulsions, unconsciousness, cardiac/respiratory failure and death. Other signs of CO can include unusually high indoor humidity with persistent heavy condensation on walls and windows, stuffy or stale indoor air and soot or water collecting near a burner or vent.

A new state law will require all existing single-family homes to be equipped with CO detectors by August 1, 2008. A CO detector must be located within 10 feet of every bedroom in the home. Existing multi-family homes and apartments will need to have CO detectors installed by August 1, 2009. All new homes constructed after January 1, 2007, must be provided with CO detectors.

When CO is suspected in the home:

- ✦ Open the windows to ventilate the area.
- ✦ Shut off the furnace and other fuel-burning appliances.
- ✦ If anyone in the home is experiencing physical symptoms, get everyone, including pets out of the house.
- ✦ If the detector sounds but no one is feeling any symptoms, contact the natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplier and have them respond to check the home for CO.
- ✦ If anyone in the home has physical symptoms, call 911.
- ✦ If CO is discovered, do not return to the home until the source has been found and the problem has been corrected.

A Look Back—Shakopee 1933-1957

Shakopee is approaching its sesquicentennial—the 150th anniversary of the town’s organization in 1857. As part of the preparation for that event, the Shakopee Historic Preservation Committee will contribute stories to Shakopee’s Hometown Messenger about the people and events that have shaped our community.

The 1930s, 40s and 50s challenged the city with a depression, wars and natural disasters; however, those rough years led to business development and enhancements to entertainment venues and the way of life of city residents.

The Great Depression and Dust Bowl years

Henry C. Schroeder was re-elected mayor in 1933 and in September of that year, the city council voted 10 to 1 to repeal prohibition. Much of the apathy of the depression was being overcome as buyouts, mergers, new business ventures and ideas took hold.

The Dust Bowl conditions in 1934 and 1935 did not hit Minnesota as hard as most western states, but there were days when the city street lights were turned on at noon and cars had their headlights on at mid-day to navigate the streets. Shakopee refurbished the historic old Murphy house making it livable and then built eight log-sided homes nearby to be used for housing for the many homeless living in the area. In 1935, John C. Cavanaugh beat Henry C. Schroeder in the election for mayor. On Dec. 4, Mayor Cavanaugh called a special meeting of the Common Council. The Rahr Malting Company of Manitowoc Wisconsin wanted to build a new facility in Shakopee; however, it wanted a number of considerations in return. An unprecedented number of meetings between the council, Rahr’s lawyers, civic organizations and other businesses were held. Agreement was reached and by September 1936, the first unit of the Rahr plant in Shakopee started operating. That same year, a new \$40,000 movie theatre called The Shakopee was built on the spot of the burned out Ferdman Bargain Store.

In March 1936, the Minnesota River flooded for the first time in 16 years, rising 18 feet in 11 days. By May, the heat and drought returned. That July brought many days with temperatures above 100 degrees, and a high temp of 108 also was recorded.

Basketball Champions

Basketball was a nice diversion for students and adults alike. In 1935 and 1936, Shakopee’s Rock Spring Sparklers, a local business league team, won the State Amateur Basketball Championship. The High School basketball team took the District in 1936; however, they lost the Regional Championship.

An Economy on the Mend

By 1937, Shakopee was seeing new houses being built, and business improving everywhere as the depression and the drought were becoming a thing of the past. The next year, the City paid the last of its bonds and was completely debt free for the first time in 50 years. At the same time, Saint Francis Hospital, the first public hospital in Shakopee, opened in what used to be the Scott County Poor House. During the next couple of years, Shakopee brought natural gas to the area and installed a new water tower that looked much like a large golf tee. The tower stood 130 feet high and held 150,000 gallons of water—the largest tower of its kind in the world.



The Shakopee Water tower built in 1937

The nightclub business did well during the late 1930s when the old Pavilion in Riverside Park was refurbished and converted into the Riviera nightclub and the Saint Paul House (another nightclub) added a 60x120 ft addition.



The Riviera Club, 1945

Scandal in Scott County

An extortion attempt was discovered in 1940. Nineteen Shakopee merchants were paying \$1,600 down and \$400 per week to avoid raids on their slot machine establishments. After bringing in an outside judge, trials were held, and 19 Scott County men were found guilty of the slot machine charges. The 19 were fined \$3,800 between all of them, and the two Minneapolis men trying to shakedown the local merchants were jailed.

A year later, Gov. Harold E. Stassen removed Sheriff A. F. Mesenbrink for failure to enforce gambling laws in Shakopee, and J. P. Wermerskirchen was appointed to replace him. An article in the Minneapolis Journal on Nov. 9, 1941, by Sheriff Wermerskirchen carried a headline announcing that there were no more slot machines in Shakopee for the first time in almost 25 years.

World War II

In 1940, the nation re-established the selective service system, a hint of things to come. Then, Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor positioned us at war abroad again, with 42 of Shakopee’s youth already in the armed forces.

A Look Back continued.....

During 1942, Shakopee industry switched to wartime mobilization. The Kinzie Merrick plant went all out on war production. The Page and Hill Company moved into some of the old foundry buildings and started making prefab houses. In April, housewives registered for sugar rationing.

Shakopee men were marching to the same railroad depot to go to war that their fathers had 25 years earlier. By the middle of October, an all out metal drive was underway and several railroad cars of metal were collected in Shakopee. A U.S. Marshall requisitioned the old Lewis Street Swing Bridge, and the landmark was soon on its way to the war.

From 1943-45, the regular reports of Shakopee's dead and captured kept citizens worried, fearing who would be next. Then, in August of 1945 with victory in both Europe and Japan declared, Shakopee began its return to a peacetime economy.

Crime Returns While Local Schools and Hospital Grow

Shakopee's liquor license problems arose again and a good deal of 1947 and 1948 were spent in numerous legal battles over the issue. Robert G. (Pat) Thielen, night patrolman on the Shakopee Police Force, exchanged gunfire during a high speed chase down First Avenue. Neither he nor the two fleeing gunmen was hit, but the gunmen escaped. This was rumored to be a diversion to scare off the new police officer who was hired to clean up the liquor problems.

That same year and for the second time, a Presidential candidate made a whistle stop in Shakopee. On Oct. 15, Thomas E. Dewey, his wife, and his 22 car troop arrived at the train depot to address 2,000 people for a few minutes. After the address they were serenaded by the Shakopee High School band and then left for Saint Paul.



Thomas Dewey visits Shakopee

Clarence J. Czaia was elected mayor in 1949. The three Shakopee schools, two private Catholic schools and the public school, had a total enrollment of 943 students. A bond issue for \$140,000 to construct an addition to the public school failed that year. The bond issue did pass in 1950, and an addition to the public school was finished that year.



Shakopee High School, 1950

Dallas F. Capesius headed the drive to collect \$150,000 as Shakopee's share for building a new Saint Francis Hospital. He actually procured \$240,000, and an additional \$50,000 was donated by the Rahr Foundation.

Shakopee Host of 1948 State Amateur Baseball Tournament

The summer of 1948 was all about the game of baseball, as Riverside Field was host to teams across the state. Teams from Belle Plaine, Excelsior, Winsted, Lester Prairie, Minneapolis and, of course, Shakopee participated in the tournament. The team from Albert Lea went on to take home the championship for the fifth straight year. The attendance for the overall tournament was 34,280—a record that is still unbroken.

Local players that participated in the tournament included: Warren Stemmer, "Rip" Schroeder, Gordy Gelhaye, Dick Siebert, Tom Berens, Earl Dressen, Jack Dressen, Allen Theis, Bucky Cavanaugh, Don Scherer and Clarence Czaia.



1948 State Baseball Tournament, Riverside Park

Flooding, Trains, and the U.S. Post Office

The flood of 1951 was the highest in history, until the flood of 1952, which greatly damaged area roads. The railroad to Shakopee was stopped by the flood, and the isolation caused local commerce to suffer. When the water receded, the Riviera Club's compromised electrical system caught fire and burned the establishment to the ground. By the end of 1952, the last steam powered locomotive in Shakopee also became a thing of the past as it was replaced by a diesel engine.

A weekly (and later monthly) newsletter called the Voice of the People started in 1954-55 with Dorothy Halver as its editor. One main objective of the publication was to fight Shakopee's liquor lords and gambling king. Oct. 1, 1955, a native son of Shakopee, Maurice H. Stans, was appointed Postmaster General by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. That year also saw teens with driver's licenses making the Tri-Y and Hauer's drive-in their favorite local stops.

In 1956, the Shakopee Railroad Depot reduced employment again from three passenger trains per day to only one. This also caused the loss of railway mail delivery, putting Shakopee on the highway post office route, where trucks hauled the mail instead of trains.

In 1957, coach Lefty Odenwald led the Shakopee Indians (Shakopee High School baseball team) to win a spot in the State Tournament for the first time since 1948. A fire at the Ketterer building on First Avenue almost caused the landmark to be completely lost--only the lower story was saved and rebuilt.

Photographs courtesy of Don Wagner and the Shakopee Historical Society.

For more information on the Sesquicentennial Celebration for Shakopee, contact Mark Noble at 952-233-9348.