



# WOODLAND NEWS

City of Woodland, 20225 Cottagewood Road, Deephaven, MN 55331  
Newsletter for City Residents

PH: 952-474-4755  
March 23, 2005

## Protecting Public Safety in Woolsey Channel

*By Mayor Jean Stark & City Councilmembers*

Woodland's quality of life is something all of our residents value highly. For many, our community's greatest attribute is our setting on beautiful Lake Minnetonka and our ability to access and enjoy its related waterways.



The City of Woodland has a unique and important responsibility to protect this community attribute and ensure safe and unimpeded boating between Woolsey Pond and Lake Minnetonka through Woolsey Channel. As many of you know Woolsey Channel is a narrow and shallow waterway that can be difficult to maneuver. However, the channel is considered a "2 way street" for boat traffic in and out of the Pond.

In 2002, Denny and Mary Newell significantly extended an existing dock to accommodate a newly purchased power boat. The new dock extended to approximately the center of Woolsey Channel. The Council asked the Newells to reduce the length of their dock so that boats could safely negotiate the channel. The Newells rejected the City's request and on May 7, 2003 sued the City to define their right to maintain their new dock along with their prior docks in their existing location. After the Newell suit was filed, the City Council passed an ordinance on May 12, 2003 which went into effect on May 29, 2003 designed to better define boating safety by ensuring adequate distance between docks and the boats traveling on Woolsey Channel. The Newells amended their suit on June 18, 2003 to invalidate the ordinance. After lengthy litigation and a trial on this matter last August, the trial judge ruled in favor of the City.

The ordinance defining the docking for the Channel

was fully upheld. The judge also found that the Newells had no riparian rights (shoreline ownership rights to use the lake) or easement on the City's submerged lots that form the part of the Channel that abuts the Newells' land. In short, the judge ruled that the Newells' docks were placed on public property. The City's case was supported by the fact that it is obligated by the deed that conveyed the property from the State of Minnesota to the City to use the property exclusively for assuring uninterrupted boat traffic from Woolsey Pond to Lake Minnetonka.

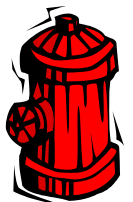
The Newells have appealed the trial court's decision.

It is always difficult when a resident is displeased by a City decision, or by a judge's ruling on behalf of the City. The Council has repeatedly worked to achieve a reasonable settlement with the Newells, but have been unable to do so to date.

In our work as elected officials, we strive to be fair and to balance the interests of individual community members with the interests of the community as a whole. In this case, we believe that the emphasis was appropriately placed on the greater good, specifically on the safety of those who boat on Woolsey Channel and the protection of public property dedicated to assuring uninterrupted boat traffic.

## Flushing Hydrants

The City of Woodland will be flushing water mains mid-April. During the flushing period, it's normal to experience some discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water from your faucet. If you experience problems, please contact City Hall at 952-474-4755.



## Summer/Winter Vacation Checklist

The Police Department will monitor your home and property while you are away enjoying your vacation. There is no charge for this service. Call the Police Department @ 952-474-7555.

Other things to do before leaving home:

- Stop your mail.
- Stop your newspaper.
- Let your neighbors know you are gone, so the circulars and ads that are left in your newspaper box and packages dropped at your door can be picked up.
- Make sure your recycling and garbage containers are not left out.
- Set lights on a timer.
- Make arrangements to have your driveway snowplowed.



### Neighborhood Relations

A barking dog, a screaming cat, or an unsightly yard, are the type of issues that seem to drive a wedge between otherwise friendly people.

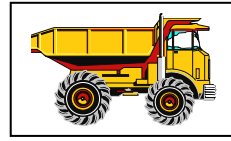
City staff is often asked to deal with two types of neighbor-to-neighbor complaints – those that relate to safety and health, and those that relate to individual taste. Woodland has ordinances to protect overall community safety and health, covering issues such as noise, weeds, junk storage, etc. However, when it comes to matters of taste, neighbors often have to work through it together. Either way, if you have a problem with something your neighbor is or is not doing, there are neighborly ways to resolve it.

*Be Understanding.* It helps to forge good relations with neighbors before problems arise. Get to know your neighbors. If one of your neighbors has difficulty with certain tasks because of age or disability, offer help, resources and assistance.

*Do not be so quick to judge your neighbors' faults that you forget to examine your own.* You may have habits that irritate them. Walk around your house, garage or shed -- look at them from an outsider's perspective. You may discover unsightly items in your own yard.

*Deal With the Problem.* First, do a little research. You may discover that what bugs you about your neighbor's behavior is a violation of an ordinance. Remember that most people do not purposely annoy their neighbors. When approaching a neighbor

about a complaint, speak calmly and stick to the facts. Avoid making offensive, personal comments. Give reasons why the behavior may not be in the best interest of the neighborhood. Offer a solution. If you are not able to reach an agreement, inform the City of your complaint. If your neighbor approaches you with a legitimate complaint – listen and be open to his concerns.

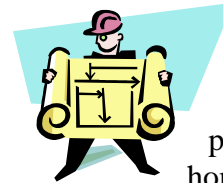


### Weight Restrictions

Weight Restrictions for local roadways are in place March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The City enforces weight restrictions to prevent damage to streets. Most damage to roadways occurs during the spring months, as the frost leaves the ground. The only vehicles excluded from the ordinance are school buses, garbage trucks and emergency equipment.

All roads leading to a subdivision are posted with the allowable axle weight rating. Residents are responsible for informing their service providers of the weight restrictions in their area. This is especially important when contracting with moving, delivery, or construction companies. For questions regarding these restrictions, contact the City at 952-474-4755.



### BUILDING PERMITS

*It's Spring Time!* The time of year to start all those maintenance projects you need done on your home. This is just a reminder that a building permit may be necessary for your repairs and additions. Common projects requiring a building permit include re-roofing, re-siding, decks and additions. Contact City Hall if you have any questions about permit requirements.

### Parking on City Streets

Woodland has limited designated parking zones, which require a permit from the City. The permit may be obtained through the Clerk's Office at City Hall. The parking permit is \$5. The Police Department will ticket vehicles that are improperly parked or parked without a permit. Please check with the City for parking restrictions. Don't forget to remind your lawn service providers of the parking restrictions.



### Dutch Elm Disease

The loss of our beautiful elms to Dutch Elm Disease has been a sad reality for many years in Woodland, but 2004 was a particularly bad year. Unfortunately, 2005 is also expected to be a year of severe elm loss. Prompt removal of diseased and dead trees is the best way to control the spread of the fungus that kills the elms. Please help us save the remaining elms by contracting with your arborist to remove infected or dead elms from your property.



### Fire Alarm Fees

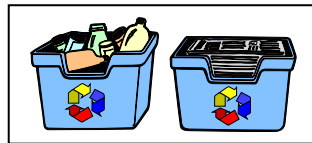
The City Council passed a resolution, which was in effect May 1, 2002

regarding False Fire Alarm Fees.

Upon receipt and determination of the false fire alarm report the Fire Chief notifies the City Clerk who shall then assesses the alarm user for an alarm user's permit fee. The first offense is a fee of \$250. The second offense and thereafter will be \$500. A late charge of \$100 will be added to all late or unpaid fire call charges. Unpaid fire calls will be certified to the property taxes and subject to additional penalties.

### Recycling Collection

Collection is every Thursday. Make sure any items to be recycled are visible to the driver and out by 7:00 AM. If you have any question, please call City Hall at 952-474-4755 or EZ Recycling at 651-644-6577.



### Property Tax Statements Mailed



Property Valuation Notices and Property Tax Bills were recently mailed to residents by Hennepin County. Taxes for the year 2005 are based on the taxable market value of a property on January 2,

2004. Estimated market values are based upon real estate sales of similar homes in the area.

Adjustments are also made for home improvements, additions and remodeling.

### Questions about property value:

Residents who have questions regarding their property valuation notice should contact Dan Distel, Woodland's Assessor at 952-474-4755. If you are not satisfied after discussing your valuation with Dan, you may appeal to the Local Board of Review, scheduled for Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Deephaven City Hall.

### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

*"...self...family...neighborhood...community,"*

The Deephaven Police Department is looking for volunteers for the Deephaven CERT Team.

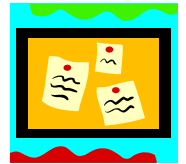
The CERT team is a group of residents that are willing to volunteer their time to be trained to assist their neighbor and their community in an emergency.

The Deephaven Police Department will provide you with 24 hours of basic training in first aid skills, light fire fighting, light search and rescue, etc. You will be equipped with the necessary tools and equipment to help.

To be part of the team or for more information contact the Deephaven Police Department @952-474-7555.

### Council Corner

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at 20225 Cottagewood Road. The public is invited to attend.



The City is working on a website that will become functional soon. We will invite you to visit the site to learn more about events, answer commonly asked questions or find the appropriate point of contact within the City or your City Council.

Your City Councilmembers are:

#### Mayor

Jean Stark

#### Councilmembers

Steve Hornig

Jim Doak

Mark Evenstad

Michael Jilek