



WOODLAND NEWS

www.cityofwoodlandmn.org

City Hall 952-474-4755

Summer 2006

Election 2006

State Primary, Tuesday September 12,

General Election, Tuesday, November 7,

Polling Location:

2860 East Road – Groveland Homeowners Association neighborhood - Follow signs

Polls Open: 7 AM – 8 PM

Woodland will have a city election as part of the General Election on November 7th to elect two Councilmembers to office.

City Offices to Open

Two Council seats. – Terms are 4 years (2007 thru 2010)

Filing for City Council

Filing Opens – Tuesday, August 29
Filing Closes – Tuesday, September 12,
Complete Filing Application at the City Offices
Fee: \$2

Stop over to the City Hall to file for City Council or you can print the Candidate Filing Application from Woodland's website and mail it in with the filing fee.

Call City Hall with Questions: 952-474-4755

New in 2006: Voter assist terminals for individuals with disabilities

Federal legislation passed by Congress, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), requires that each polling place be equipped with a voter assist terminal for individuals with disabilities. These devices are designed to provide voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote independently and privately. Funding for the purchase of the equipment was allocated by the federal government to each state. The State of Minnesota has certified the AutoMARK for use in Minnesota to meet the HAVA requirement to provide a voter assist terminal. Hennepin County purchased the equipment for each city with HAVA grant funds.

How does the ballot marking device work?

The voters receive the same optical scan paper ballot whether they will vote using a pen or the AutoMARK ballot marking device. The AutoMARK is a tool - an "electronic pen" - to assist the voter in marking the ballot. The AutoMARK has special features to assist voters with disabilities that make it difficult to mark an optical scan paper ballot (i.e. blind, poor eyesight, unable to hold a pen). When the voter inserts the ballot into the AutoMARK, an electronic version of the ballot appears on the screen. The screen provides options for reverse contrast, enlargement for easier reading, or for being turned off for privacy if a voter chooses to access the ballot by using earphones and keypad. The recorded audio description of the ballot can be used in place of or in conjunction with the visual version on the screen. The voter makes selections by the touch screen, the keypad, or alternative adaptive method.

The AutoMARK ballot marking device provides voters the opportunity to review and verify their selections. Upon the voter's direction, the AutoMARK marks the ovals on the optical scan ballot. The voter then inserts the ballot into the M-100 ballot counter used by all voters in the precinct. The voting process remains the same for voters who do not need the assistance of the AutoMARK for marking a ballot. Votes are tallied by the ballot counter to produce precinct results.

Voter Registration

To vote, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years old.
- A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days on election day.
- Properly registered.

You must re-register if:

- Your name or address changes.
- You have not voted in four years.

At least 20 days before the election day:

- Complete a Voter Registration Application, available at most government offices and public libraries or online:
- You can download a Voter Registration Application at the Secretary of State's website. www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index
- Register in person, or mail the application to the Woodland City Clerk or Hennepin County Voter Registration Office.

To register at the polling place on election day, you must have authorized proof of residence:

- Valid Minnesota Driver's License, Learner's Permit or receipt of either with current address located in precinct.
- Valid Minnesota I.D. or receipt with current address located in precinct.
- A registered voter in the precinct who can vouch for you.
- Registration in the same precinct indicating a previous address.
- Mailed notice from the Registration Office indicating ineffective registration.
- Students can show their address in the precinct by using a current fee statement and an I.D. card.
- A tribal I.D. with name, address, signature, and picture of the individual.

A voter may also register using a combination of one approved photo ID (column 1) and one approved utility bill (column 2):

Column 1	Column 2
Minnesota driver's license with current name (licenses from out-of-state are not acceptable).	Electric bill.
Minnesota state I.D. card (I.D.s from other states are not acceptable).	Gas bill
U.S. Military I.D.	Water bill.
U. S. passport.	Sewer bill.
Minnesota Tribal I.D.	Solid waste bill.
	Cable television bill.
	Telephone bill.

Absentee Voting

Starts 30 days prior to the elections

Primary Election Ballots Available – Friday, August 11

General Election Ballots Available – Friday, October 6

Absentee Ballots

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on election day because you are:

- Away from home.
- Ill or disabled.
- An election judge serving in another precinct.
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or religious beliefs.

1st Step – Complete an Absentee Ballot Application and submit it to the City Clerk's office.

You can cast your absentee ballot in two ways:

- By mail
- In person at City Hall during the City Clerk's regular hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Additionally, the City Clerk's Office will have extended hours for in-person absentee voting at City Hall on the Saturday immediately preceding the election from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on the Monday immediately preceding the election.



Election Judges needed

If you can serve as an Election Judge this year please call Shelley at the City Hall 952-474-4755. We will need election judges for the Primary and the General Election.

Polls are open from 7am until 8pm on Election Day. We will have morning and afternoon shifts available. This year we will have a group training session for Election Judges in August, together with other Lake Minnetonka area judges at the Wayzata City Hall.

CLEAN WATER BENEFITS ALL OF US

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

According to LMCD Chair, Tom Skamstad, Eurasian Milfoil was discovered in Lake Minnetonka in 1987 and has since spread throughout the lake, although its nuisance levels vary from bay to bay. This invasive plant interferes with navigation, is a nuisance for recreation and affects the ecology of the lake. The LMCD established a harvesting program in 1989 to control milfoil in the lake's navigation lanes.

If you are a boater, an angler, a water-skier, sailor, or a canoeist-there are some important things you can do. DON'T transport water, animals, or plants from one lake or river to another. In many states, it is illegal to transport exotics species.

Remove ALL plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and accessory equipment (anchors, centerboards, trailer hitch, wheels, rollers, cables, axles) before leaving the water access area.

Drain your live wells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving the water access area.

Empty your bait bucket on land, never into the water. Never dip your bait or minnow bucket into one lake if it has water in it from another. And never dump live fish from one water body into other waters.

Wash your boat, tackle, downriggers, and trailer with hot water when you get home. Flush water through your motor's cooling system and other boat parts that normally get wet. If possible, let everything dry for three days before transporting your boat to another body of water. (Both hot water and drying will kill zebra mussel larvae and spiny water fleas).

Consult the DNR for recommendations and permits before your try to control or eradicate an exotic "pest". Remember, exotic "pest" species thrive on disturbance.

Zebra Mussels

One factor in the rapid spread of zebra mussels is the reproductive rate of a female zebra mussel. Spawning generally occurs in the spring and can continue through the summer until fall. Over the course of a year, a female zebra mussel can produce up to one million eggs. These develop into microscopic, free-swimming larvae called veligers that begin to form shells. At about three weeks, they begin to firmly attach themselves to solid objects such as submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, and water intake pipes.



More Information can be found at the LMCD website: www.lmcd.org

Stormwater is not clean – stormwater runoff carries pollutants that seriously harm our waters.

What can we all do to help?

Keep Grass Clippings off of the road, driveway and sidewalk.

WHY:

With the next rain, the grass clippings will make their way to the storm drain where they will be washed into the nearest lake, river or wetland.

WHAT HAPPENS:

When the grass clippings enter the lake or river they are dead and they start to decompose. This results in two problems. First they use up oxygen in order to decompose -- the same oxygen needed for fish to live.

Second, when they decompose, they turn into fertilizer, adding more nutrients into our overly enriched lakes.

Fertilizing the lakes promotes aquatic plant and algae growth -- one of the biggest complaints heard about our lakes.

Keep pesticides, oil, leaves and other pollutants off streets.

Divert roof water to lawns or gardens, where it can safely soak in.

Clean up pet waste

Do not mow grass clippings into the street



Lake Minnetonka Regulation Of Watercraft Section 3.03. Rules of the Road

Subd. 1. Overtaking. When watercraft are running in the same direction, the craft which is astern shall pass only when there is sufficient distance between the crafts so it can do so safely and only at such speed that its wash or wake will not endanger the craft being passed or its occupants. No person operating a watercraft shall abruptly change its course without first determining that it can be safely done without risk of collision with another craft.

Subd. 2. Approaching. When watercraft are approaching each other head on, or nearly so, each shall turn to the right a sufficient distance so that they will safely pass. When the course of an approaching craft is so far to the right as not to be considered as meeting head on, each shall maintain its course and pass clear.

Subd. 3. Crossing. When watercraft are crossing courses, or approaching each other obliquely or at right angles, so as to involve risk of collision, the craft which has the other on its own right shall yield the right-of-way.

Subd. 4. Sailboats. Sailboats under sail alone shall have right-of-way over all other watercraft underway except when overtaking such other watercraft.

Subd. 5. Horn Signals. Proper horn signals are as follows in a meeting situation: "One blast means 'pass port to port'; two blasts mean 'pass starboard to starboard'; three blasts mean 'backing from closed area'; and four blasts mean 'danger of collision exists, stop or slow to bare steerage'." The operator of such motorboats shall, only when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, sound such horn, whistle or bell.

Maximum Speed on Minnetonka

40 mph during the daylight

20 mph during the nighttime

5 mph in the following:

Quiet water areas;

Within 150 ft of the shoreline;

150 feet of an authorized bathing area or swimmer, scuba diver's warning flag, an anchored raft or watercraft, or a dock or pier except that from which the watercraft with a person in tow is being operated.

Declaring Minnetonka Ice-Out

Ice-Out is declared on Lake Minnetonka by the Commander of the Water Patrol: currently Lt. Jeff Storms.

Ice-Out does not necessarily mean "ice free". Ice-Out is declared when Lt. Storms can take a boat from Water Patrol Headquarters in Spring Park, through the narrows and around Big Island without having to significantly alter course to avoid ice or ice flows.

This method has been used since 1855 for lake boat captains.

2006 Ice-Out date – April 9

Earliest Ice-Out: March 11, 1878

Latest Ice-Out: May 8, 1856

Earliest to Latest: 59 days

Most Common Ice-Out: April 17 & 18 – (9 times)

Average Ice-Out: April 15 *

* Ice-Out has never actually occurred on this date!

Frequently asked Questions about Boating

Do you need a driver's license to operate a boat in Minnesota?

You are not required to have a drivers license to operate a watercraft on any lake in the State of Minnesota

If you are stopped by the Water Patrol or a Conservation Officer, you need to provide the officer with proper identification. This ID is usually a drivers license, but it could also be a Minnesota ID card, school or work ID, passport or any other official identification.

Do children need to wear a PFD (life jacket) while in a boat?

Starting with the 2005 boating season, all children under the age of 10 must wear a properly sized, Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device. The only exception is when the child is below deck, aboard a charter boat, or if the boat is anchored or docked.

Do I need an observer to tow someone behind my PWC?

On Lake Minnetonka all watercraft that are towing skiers or tubes must have an observer that is at least 12 years of age. For PWCs, the observer needs to be able to communicate with the operator and DOES NOT have to sit backwards.

What time does it get dark?

Would you like to check the times of sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, transits of the sun and moon?

Check out the Water patrol website link below. Enter any date and your city.

<http://www.waterpatrol.org/sunrise.htm>

Helpful Resource Links

Parents Need to Know - www.nationalchildsafety.org/

Weather and Traffic Conditions - www.511mn.org

www.dot.state.mn.us/tmc/trafficinfo/map

Identity Theft - www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Garden Minnesota - www.gardenminnesota.com

Senior Websites - www.seniors.gov

Hennepin County - <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/>

I-494 Reconstruction

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is reconstructing Interstate 494 from the junction with Interstate 394 in Minnetonka to the Minnesota River between Bloomington and Eagan. The project involves construction of one additional through lane in each direction, auxiliary lanes, access changes, reconfiguration of selected interchanges, and operational and traffic management improvements. The project includes acquisition of several commercial and residential parcels in the City of Bloomington as well as the reconstruction of I-35W from I-494 to near 90th Street.

Light Rail Transit I-494

Light rail transit (LRT) was dismissed as an alternative in the I-494 Corridor Study based on the findings of the Long-range Transit Analysis, completed by the Met Council in 1986. The Met Council study established 23,000 daily rides as the minimum viability threshold for LRT in the freeway median. These low ridership projections (6,000 riders per forecast for the I-494 corridor) and the high capital cost per rider index for LRT in the I-494 corridor. As a result of the benefit-cost analyses, the Met Council does not indicate I-494 as a potential LRT corridor in its most recent 2000 policy plan or 2020 Master Plan for Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area.

Annual Septic System Review

The Septic Inspector, Kurt Larsen, will be conducting a visual review of ½ the septic systems in Woodland starting July 31 though August 4. Kurt will stop at your property and walk around the area of your septic system he will also look down the baffles to determine if pumping is needed.

Recycling Collection For 2006

Dates also posted on the City's website

www.cityofwoodlandmn.org

Recycling Collection is bi-weekly.

- Every-other Thursday

June 22

*July 7 July 20

Aug. 3 Aug. 17 Aug. 31

Sept. 14 Sept. 28

Oct. 12 Oct. 26

Nov. 9 *Nov. 24

Dec. 7 Dec. 21

* Recycling one day later due to holiday



CRT BAN

Effective July 1, 2006 it is illegal to place computer monitors and televisions in the trash. A Cathode-Ray Tube (CRT) is the display device used in most computer monitors and televisions.

Televisions and computer monitors have been found to contain lead and other heavy metals. Contact your garbage hauler for optional drop-off sites or special pick-up of these items.

Fire Protection Service



The City of Woodland has a contract with the City of Wayzata for fire protection services. Residents are responsible for costs related to calls from their residence whether the call is a false alarm or actual fire. Often, the fire alarm is canceled prior to the fire trucks arriving at your residence, or even leaving the station. However, the Wayzata Fire Department pays the volunteer firemen for showing up and incurs alert charges. The City of Woodland adopted a Resolution to assess fire calls to the property where the call originated. The first call is \$250. The second call and all additional calls will be \$500. The cost of Woodland's Fire Contract costs are based on the number of calls received.

What is Avian Flu?

There are many different types of influenza viruses circulating in the world all the time. Some infect only birds. Some infect only swine. Others, only humans. What is being referred to today as avian influenza or bird flu is one type of influenza affecting birds - an H5N1 influenza virus - that has caused widespread illness in poultry flocks in Asia since 2003. Hundreds of millions of chickens and ducks have died or been culled in an effort to control the outbreak.

The current avian influenza virus can infect people to a limited degree. As of April 26, 2006, 204 confirmed cases and 113 have died - a 55% mortality rate. But these are people who caught the virus from birds. Most of them worked with poultry flocks or had close contact with birds. So far, the virus does not appear to be spreading easily from person-to-person.

What is the difference between pandemic flu and ordinary flu?

Ordinary flu

- Occurs every year during the winter
- Affects up to 10% of the population
- For most people, it is an unpleasant, but not life-threatening, infection
- The very young, the very old and people with certain chronic illnesses are most at risk of serious illness
- Annual vaccination is available for those at risk of serious illness
- Antiviral drugs are available to treat those at special risk

Pandemic flu

- Occurs about three times each century - at any time of the year
- May affect around 25% of the population
- It is a more serious infection for everyone
- People of every age may be at risk of serious illness
- A vaccine won't be available to start with - when it does become available, the aim will be to immunize the whole population as rapidly as possible as vaccine supplies come through

Why is there such a concern about bird flu?

Public health officials are concerned that the virus could change its genes (mutate) into a form that is easily transmitted from person to person. While we don't know for sure that it will mutate or when it will, the result, if it did, would then be a global influenza pandemic. Since few, if any, people would have any immunity to it, the new influenza virus would spread around the world rapidly, causing serious illness in many, many people.

There has been much reported in the media about this lately because national and international officials have been meeting to discuss various ways to prevent the spread of avian influenza and a potential pandemic influenza and how to respond to both.

Should people be worried about this now?

There is no sign that the H5N1 has become a pandemic flu strain - yet. It could become a pandemic like that of 1918 when millions of people died or it could become a less severe pandemic like that of 1956. We simply don't know. But we need to be prepared in either case. Most health officials do believe that a pandemic will happen - it's just a question of when.

Is it safe to eat poultry?

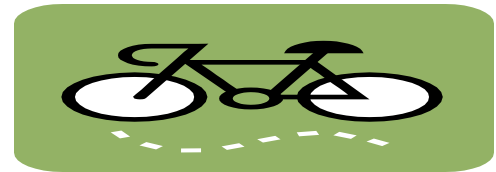
Yes. Eating properly handled and cooked poultry is safe. The U.S. government has banned imported poultry from countries affected by bird flu, including H5N1. In addition, European officials say cooking kills the virus and they are assuring Europeans it is safe to eat poultry.

Best defense

Our best weapon in a pandemic may be common sense. Wash your hands frequently, cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and stay home as much as possible (when people are sick). Some of these things you can and should practice right now or during any flu season.

Websites for more information on avian flu

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/index.html>



Safety tips for walkers: “Leg Left”

Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk in the road, always walk **FACING traffic**, so you can see any car that might go out of control.

Dress to be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. At night, you need to wear special **reflective material** on your shoes, cap or jacket to reflect the headlights of cars coming towards you.

Tips for Crossing the Street:

Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.

Stop and look left, then right, then left again, before you step into the street. If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right and left again until no cars are coming.

If a car is parked where you are crossing, make sure there is no driver in the car. Then go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left until no cars are coming. Keep looking for cars while you are crossing.

Bike Safety:

Remember, you may be riding a bike—but you’re actually driving’ the same way you would if you were in a car. Always follow traffic signals and road signs, just like cars do.

Make sure your bike is the proper size. A bike that is too big or too small will be hard to control. When you’re standing on the ground you should have a 1-3 inch gap between you and the top bar. You’ll need more room if you’re riding a mountain bike.

Check to see if your bike seat is adjusted to the proper height. When you’re sitting on the seat with your foot on the pedal, your leg should be slightly bent. This will help avoid knee strain.

Make sure you have a reflector on the front and rear of your bike. The rear should be red and should be at least three inches across. Make sure the reflector is pointed straight back to reflect the headlights of cars that are coming up behind you.

Check the bike’s chain to make sure it’s clean and lubricated. If it’s not, take it to the local bike shop for a check up.

Check your brakes for even pressure. They should make your back wheels skid on dry pavement, but you don’t want brakes that stick.

“Ride Right”

Always ride on the **RIGHT**. Remember to ‘go with the flow’. Never, ever ride against traffic. Cars will not be expecting to find a biker when they round a corner or go over a hill.

Ride single file. When passing other bikers or pedestrians, let them know your position by shouting out something like, ‘On your left!’

Always check behind you when changing lanes. Watch out for dangerous things in the road way. Road litter, potholes, gravel and storm gates can all cause you to lose control.

Stop at all stop signs and at all street lights. Be extra careful at crossroads.

Always signal before making a left or right turn. To make a left turn: look behind you, hold your left arm straight out and proceed carefully. For a right turn hold your left arm out and up in an ‘L’ shape.

Keep control of your bike. Don’t swerve or make sudden turns. Drivers may not be able to react fast enough to avoid colliding with you.

Ride at least 3 feet away from parked cars. Someone could open their door unexpectedly.

What to wear while biking:

It makes sense to wear something brightly colored when you’re biking.

Choose a color that makes you easy to see. Fluorescent green, yellow or orange are all great choices. If you’re wearing these colors, other bikers, motorists and pedestrians will be able to see you better.

Look for fabrics that are cool and lightweight. (You can really work up a sweat biking!) If it’s cool outside, dress in layers.

For riding at night (which we don’t recommend for anyone) you’ll need clothing with retro-reflective materials sewn onto it.

You’ll also need one light source, like a headlamp.

Make sure the straps of your book bag, loose clothing or anything else isn’t going to catch in the wheels of the bike, and cause you to lose control.

Last but not least -- don’t forget to wear your helmet!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

City Hall Closed – Tuesday July 4 - Holiday
Council Meeting – July 10
Council Meeting – August 14
City Hall Closed – September 4 – Labor Day
Council Meeting – September 11
Primary Election – September 12

Police Department Update

Woodland has been and will continue to be a safe place to live. During the summers of 2004 and 2005, we suffered 8-10 thefts from motor vehicles and at least the theft of 1 motor vehicle. Both summers we arrested and convicted the same person.

Last week a pickup was stolen, and there was one report of items stolen from a motor vehicle. As you have probably guessed, we suspect the same person is involved as in the last two summers. In fact, the night after the pickup theft, our officers stopped that person "just driving around" at 2:00 – 2:30 A.M.

This person, a 19 year old from the West Side of the lake, is not overly talented, nor a hard worker. He has never pried or broken locks or windows to gain entry. So removing the keys and locking your vehicle doors has been deterrent enough.

Additionally, removing valuables, especially cash, from vehicles removes the incentive. During one night of the summer of 2004 he collected \$1,000 in cash. I am concerned that at least in his mind we are a "soft target".

We are on duty 24 hours a day and it is okay to call us in the early morning hours; likewise it is okay to use 911 to report suspicious vehicle/persons in Woodland.

There usually is not a great deal of traffic/persons on Woodland streets in the early morning hours. If you notice any we would like a call. It is a very rare event that it is one our residents returning from a "red eye" flight.

Parking always has been, and probably will, continue to be an issue in Woodland. It truly is a public safety issue because of our narrow streets and the wide bodies of ambulances and fire trucks. Parking on Woodland streets is prohibited except in designated areas with a permit.

Often we are asked about our policy relative to parking enforcement. I explain it this way. If the tires of a motor vehicle touch the blacktop roadway, it is

considered parked on a city street. The vehicle is subject to tagging. Our Officers are hired/retained because of their good discretion. No one, including the police, want to cite vehicles following the strict interpretation outlined. We try to contact the driver and have the vehicle moved. Absent compliance, we cite.

We also understand the dilemma of contractors and other service people, especially on large projects. We try to work with the site managers and/or homeowners to relieve the problem. Sometimes, citations are a necessary reminder that we are serious about parking.

The second area of concern is noise, specifically loud music or "party" noise. Construction noise is regulated under another ordinance and details specific hours of the day when that type of noise is permitted. Almost everyone is aware of that ordinance and complies.

Loud music or "party" noise is another matter. There is no specific time when a band or sound system must stop playing. As a rule, when complaints are received about noise and it is after 10:00 P.M., we make an appearance at the party, talk to the host/hostess, tell them about the complaint and ask them to turn down the noise. This resolves almost all of the complaints received. Occasionally, we have a second complaint and we ask the host/hostess to turn off the sound. City ordinance allows citations to be issued for those who refuse to comply.

Again discretion plays a major role – there is a difference between a once in a lifetime party (50th wedding anniversary) and a weekly live band party. Most neighbors will tolerate the former but not the latter. Inviting the neighbor or simply telling them of your party plans also reduces complaints.

Please remember noise travels and the caller about your party may live in Deephaven, Minnetonka or even across the bay in Wayzata.

The Officers have no input into what is an acceptable level of noise. The Judiciary has repeatedly told us that if the noise level is offensive to us we have the ability to drive to the other side of town. The acceptable level of noise is a community standard and is complaint driven.

We all have the same goal – to enjoy our summers safely. Please help us accomplish this by being an alert, understanding neighbor.

Parking On City Streets

Woodland has limited designated parking zones, which require a permit from the City before use. The permit may be obtained through the Clerk's Department at City Hall. The parking permit is \$5 per day or \$25 per month for construction projects. The Police Department will ticket vehicles that are improperly parked or parked without a permit. Please check with the City for parking restrictions.

Things to Do & See



The nationally renowned Guthrie Theater is opening its new theater overlooking the city's birthplace on the Mississippi. The theater reopens in the new Guthrie Theater on the River—a \$125 million, 250,000-square-foot theater at 818 Second Street overlooking the Mississippi River. There will be an Open House on Sunday, June 25 with entertainment on all three stages.

The first Guthrie production in the new theater will be a stage adaptation of "The Great Gatsby," the Jazz Age novel by St. Paul native F. Scott Fitzgerald; the play opens July 21. For more information, go to www.guthrietheater.org.



Visit a Cave in Southern Minnesota

Niagara Cave is one of the most fascinating and unique geological attractions in the Midwest. During the one-hour guided tour, visitors will witness a waterfall, nearly 60 feet high, stalactites both delicate and massive, calcite flowstone, fossils that have been dated to over 400 million years old.

It's a cool 48 degrees in the cave, so wear a light jacket or sweatshirt, plus good walking shoes. All paths in the cavern are well-lit. The tours are offered weekends in April and daily May through September. The tour costs \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and teens, and \$5.50 for kids aged 4-12. Niagara Cave is about 50 miles southeast of Rochester. From the town of Harmony, go south 2.5 miles on Hwy. 139, then west another 2.5 miles on Co. Rd. 30.

www.niagaracave.com
800-837-6606

Take Time to enjoy the parks and trails this summer - <http://mnbiketrails.com/>

LRT Trail

The Southwest Regional LRT Trail follows an abandoned railroad bed throughout the southwestern metro area suburbs. The north corridor begins in Hopkins and extends west for 15.5 miles through Minnetonka, Deephaven, Greenwood, Excelsior and Shorewood, ending in downtown Victoria.

State Trails Get \$14 Million

The Minnesota state legislature appropriated nearly \$14 million over the next two years for state park trail acquisition, development and rehabilitation.

The funding was included in the nearly \$1 billion bonding bill passed by the legislature Sunday May 21.



2006 Summer Concert Schedule at the Wayzata Depot

Every Wednesday night, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., June 14 through August 2.

June 21st

Gaelic Tribe (Celtic Music)

June 28th

Cliff Brunzell & the Golden String Quartet (Variety String)

July 5th

The Abdomen (Classic Rock)

July 12th

The Blue Drifters (Bluegrass)

July 19th

After 5 (Variety Vocal)

July 26th

Zurah Shrine Flames (Big Band)

August 2nd

Chmielewski's Television Show Band (Polka)

Swim, Bike & Run

Registration is now open
to all for the 2nd Annual
Deephaven Days
Triathlon !



Everyone is Welcome to participate

Race Day - Saturday, August 12

Swim, bike and run with your neighbors and join the fun at Thorpe Park in Deephaven for a community picnic immediately following the race. Registration forms & maps available at the City Hall or on the Deephaven

Website at <http://www.cityofdeephaven.org>

Excelsior Farmers' Market



Every Thursday afternoon,
2:00-6:30 p.m., Rain or Shine.
Lyman Park on Water Street,
Downtown Excelsior

Fruit, vegetable, flower growers,
honey harvesters, organic
farmers gather weekly on Thursdays to
sell exceptional produce and homemade goods at
refreshing prices.

Taking a vacation?



Stop newspaper delivery and mail delivery (online at www.usps.com)

Reserve boarding space for your pets

Put lights on a timer

Let neighbors know you'll be away, so they can keep an eye on your house.

Leave your itinerary & contact information with a relative or close friend.

Inform the police department:
952-474-7555.

Summer Storms -Things to know

Lightning kills an average of 100 people in the United States each year. It injures many more. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Lightning can strike the ground 10 to 12 miles from the parent storm.

The most likely places for people to be killed by lightning are ball fields, golf courses, boats, and tractors without cabs. Don't use metal objects such as fishing rods or golf clubs when lightning is threatening. Stop tractor work and dismount. If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter at least 100 yards from shore.

The steel frame of an enclosed hardtop car provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. If you are caught outside, don't sit down or lie on the ground. You make a larger target. Crouch low to the ground, with your hands on your knees and your head between them. If you are in a group, stay at least 15 feet apart. Avoid seeking shelter under a lone tree.

A person struck by lightning carries no electrical charge and can be handled safely. A person injured by lightning has received an electric shock and may be burned, both where they were struck and where the electricity left their body. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped, a trained person should give CPR. Get someone to call 9-1-1 immediately.

If you are inside, avoid talking on a corded telephone or touching electric appliances that are plugged into the wall. Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any purpose. Lightning that strikes wiring or plumbing can travel on to you.

Tornado Watch

A tornado or severe thunderstorm watch means that conditions are favorable for the development of either tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. Many tornadoes originate inside severe thunderstorm cells.

Tornado Warning

A tornado or severe thunderstorm warning means that a tornado or thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warnings are issued for counties and/or communities and include the tornado's location, direction and speed. If the warning is for your area, you must take shelter immediately.