



# Woodland Newsletter

HAPPENINGS

January 2008

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## New Law Requiring Carbon Monoxide alarms in effect

In 2006, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law (MN Statute 299F.50) requiring the installation of carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms in all single family and multi-family apartment units.

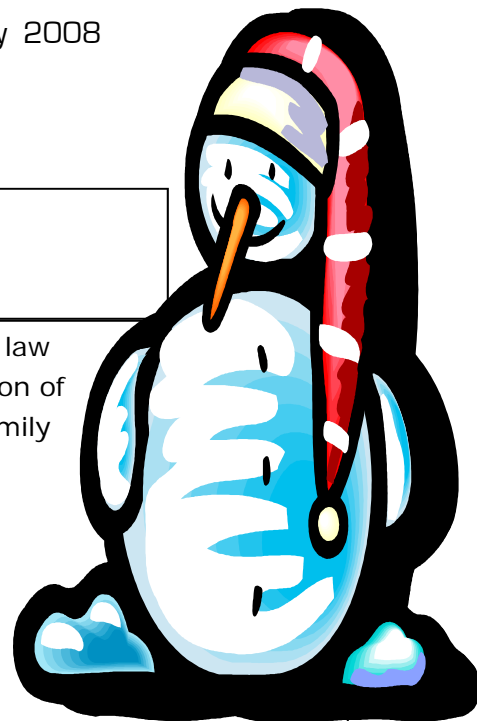
The effect dates are as follows:

January 1, 2007-All new construction single family homes and multi-family dwellings.

August 1, 2008-All existing single family homes

August 1, 2009-All existing multi-family or apartment dwellings.

To learn about the law and its requirements, visit the State Fire Marshal's Website at [dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/fmarshal.html](http://dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/fmarshal.html)



## Reduce Heating Bills This Winter

The Simplest way to lower your heating bill is to use less fuel.

Following are the top ten recommendations from the Department of Commerce, Energy Information Center on how to reduce heating costs throughout the winter:

**1.** Turn down your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees while you are away or sleep.

Every degree above 68° adds about 3 percent to your heating bill.

**2.** Turn your water heater to 120°-125°.

**3.** Place window film on the interior of leaky or drafty windows.

**4.** Have your furnace and water heater professionally cleaned and inspected to make sure they work efficiently and safely. Change furnace filters monthly.

**5.** Replace your old furnace with a new, efficient model. Look for the Energy Star label on all new home appliances.

**6.** Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows.

**7.** Vacuum heat registers

and return air vents regularly. If you have hot water heat, vacuum radiators or baseboard heaters. Make sure furniture and draperies do not block the heat flow.

**8.** Make use of solar heat by keeping curtains open when the sun is shining.

**9.** Add more attic insulation, but only after sealing all attic bypasses.

Bypasses leak warm, moist air into your attic, reducing the value of insulation.

An insulation value of R-38 is recommended for attics.

**10.** Call your utility company about having a home energy audit, which will pinpoint ways to weatherize your home to make it more energy efficient.

Source:

Minnesota Department of Commerce

[www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us)



## City of Woodland 2008 City Budget

### The City Council approved the 2008 City Operating Budget.

**Police and fire protection** remains our top priority. Demands for these services continue to increase. Approximately 40 percent of the budget is allocated to the public safety services provided by Deephaven Police and Wayzata Fire Department.

**Public works** is another high priority. 27 percent of the budget pays for road maintenance, snow and ice removal, street sweeping and rehabilitating City streets.

The City plans to place more financial resources in its street sealing and maintenance fund.

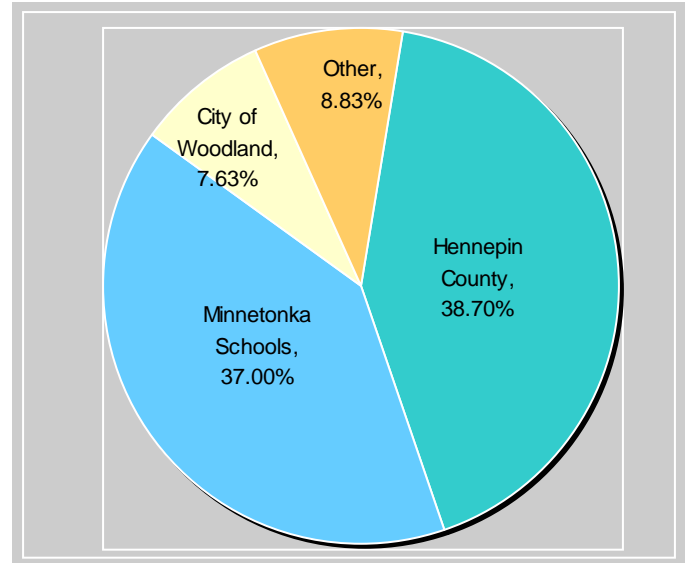
**General government/other** account for 27 percent of the budget and consist of administrative expenses, assessing services, city planning and zoning administration, elections, building maintenance, recycling, insurance and other day-to-day business items.

**Property taxes** make up about 91 percent of the revenues to the General Fund.

The City also provides limited water and sanitary sewer service, however, these services are supported by the direct users of the municipal system; no tax dollars are placed in these enterprises.

### Property Tax dollars at Work

Less than 8% of your property tax dollar goes into the City Budget.



### What do my property taxes pay for?

There are more than 70 independent local governments in Hennepin County that have authority to levy a property tax. Each of these taxing districts goes through a budget process annually to decide:

- What public services they will *or must* provide
- How they plan to pay for those services.

In most cases, not all the money needed can be raised from state aid, grants, fees or fines. The rest is raised through property taxes.

All property is located in more than one taxing district. For example, property can be in a county, city, school district and other special taxing districts. Your property tax statement is really *seven to 10 tax bills*, consolidated into one statement.

Woodland Revenue	2008 Budget	% / Revenue
Taxes	\$ 265,951	90.99%
Licenses & Permits	\$ 10,000	3.42%
Govt. Aid	\$ 7,331	2.51%
Charges for Services	\$ 2,500	0.86%
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 1,500	0.51%
Interest Income & Misc	\$ 5,000	1.71%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 292,282</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Woodland Expenditure	2008 Budget	% / Expenses
Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor, Zoning, Elections, supplies & equip., printing, postage	\$ 58,896	20.15%
Legal & Prosecution	\$ 17,000	5.82%
Police & Fire	\$ 116,686	39.92%
Streets, snow plowing, mowing, trees	\$ 78,400	26.82%
Recycling, Insurance, deer control & Other	\$ 21,300	7.29%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 292,282</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Snow Plow Safety

Each year motorists are warned of the danger involved in following snowplows too closely.

Unfortunately, while this warning is heeded by most, many years in Minnesota there are close to 100 snowplow/vehicle accidents reported. Drivers new to Minnesota roads may not be aware of the dangers involved, and many drivers, experienced or not, do not understand the limited field of vision experienced in the large plows required to keep our roads clear for safe winter driving.

Snow plows are not only large, the blinding snow that they blow creates limited visibility for plow drivers. This means motorists must not depend upon plow

drivers to see them, they must be watching out for the plow! Drivers should remember to use the "eight second rule" when following a snowplow.

This means that when the plow passes a fixed object on the side of the road, your vehicle should not pass that same object for at least eight seconds. If you are closer than eight seconds, slow down! You are driving too closely!

Keep in mind, the average snowplow weighs 17 times more than your car. It is not a contest a car is likely to win.

**Stay Back! Stay Alive!**

Drivers should allow 5 car lengths between their vehicles and snowplows.

## Passport Services

Did you know the motor vehicle office in Wayzata now offers passport service?



Come in with proof of citizenship (birth certificate, naturalization papers, etc.), and a drivers license.

A passport photo service is also available at the MV office. The passport will be sent out within 6-8 weeks. Fees vary.

**Open each weekday**

**7:30 am - 5:30 pm.**

**Questions?**

**Call 952-404-5320.**

The Motor Vehicle office is located next to the Wayzata City Hall and Fire Station, across the parking lot from the library.

## Wayzata Motor Vehicle Services

Attention Snowbirds: Come in and renew your vehicle before you leave for your winter escape. Just bring in your license plate number.

They also offer numerous specialty and personalized plates.

They offer FAST TRACK title service. For an additional fee, you can have your title provided within three business days. Certain conditions apply. Call or visit us for additional information.

Hunting and fishing licenses are also now

available. Come in and pick up your free copy of the new hunting regulations and zone maps.

Visit them for your snowmobile renewals and get a free state snowmobile trail map.

A convenient location for all your motor vehicle transfers and renewals, including registration and transfers for boats, snow mobiles and ATVs. Call or email with any questions (952) 404-5320

[motorv@wayzata.org](mailto:motorv@wayzata.org).





## Property Taxes FAQs

### Why do I pay property taxes?

Your property taxes are used in funding local services. Services such as police, fire, county-wide park and recreational facilities, social services, court system and education are paid for by your property taxes. The money you pay for property taxes is used for services at different levels of government. Your property tax is divided among the county, school district and city. A small amount goes to fund other taxing districts such as the Metro Transit, Mosquito Control and watershed districts.

### How is my property tax determined?

First, the assessor must determine a fair market value for your property. Minnesota Statute 272.03 defines "Market Value" as "the usual selling price...at the time of assessment." Minnesota state law also requires the assessor to physically review property at least once every five years. Establishing a fair and equitable market value will make sure you are paying your fair share of the total property tax burden.

Second, Minnesota state law determines how the total tax will be distributed among various types of property in the states, such as residential, commercial and industrial property. Property tax laws are subject to change by state legislation, therefore, the tax burden may shift to different types of property from year to year.

Finally, the actual dollar amount that you pay in property tax is determined by the amount of money needed to fund the local services. The actual calculation of your property tax is a little more complicated. Changes in city's property tax base, special property classifications, state mandates, credits, and other statutory requirements may affect the actual dollar amount of property tax you pay.

### Where can I get property tax information?

Current year property tax information is available from Hennepin County. You may contact Hennepin County Taxpayer Services at (612) 348-3011, or visit their website at [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us).

## New Ordinance Rules Regarding Solicitors or Peddlers

The City Council approved an amendment to the Ordinance pertaining to the licensing of solicitor and peddlers.

- The license period was reduced from six months to 14 consecutive days and limits the hours of operation from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Solicitors may not walk on or about any side or rear yard, or make contact at any point other than the main point of entrance or front door of a property.
- Solicitors must leave promptly following completion of a transaction or an unsuccessful attempt to contact the resident.
- No peddler or solicitor shall enter upon any premises of any resident whose name and address is listed on the Exclusion list.

Residents can add their name and address to a list that would prohibit peddlers or solicitation at your home.

The City will generate a list of addresses that will be attached to a permit issued to any solicitor.

The solicitor will be informed that addresses on the list are to be excluded from solicitation.

This list will remain in effective until you remove your address from it. We cannot guarantee that you will not experience any solicitation, however, this list is designed to reduce the door-to-door solicitations.

Please note that this list will not exempt certain individuals or organizations from soliciting your home.

- Newspaper Carriers
- Farm & Garden product vendors
- Charitable, political or religious vendors or solicitors, unless done primarily for the profit of the individual or corporation.
- Persons having licenses or permits under other applicable sections of the Code or under State laws or regulations

If you would like your address added to the **Exclusion List**, please complete the form below and return it to City Hall or email me at

### Please add my name to the Peddlers and Solicitors Exclusion List

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:  
City of Woodland  
20225 Cottagewood Road  
Deephaven, MN 55391

## Snow Plowing now High-tech

The Hennepin County Transportation Department is readying its fleet of 80 maintenance trucks with snow-removal and ice-control equipment. Each fall, county maintenance trucks are equipped with snow-plowing and sanding equipment in the Central Mobile Equipment Division shop at the Public Works Facility (PWF) in Medina.

The latest improvement to the county's snowplows includes the installation of an Automated Vehicle Locator – a Global Positioning System – on all trucks. An online tracking site allows transportation department personnel at the PWF to measure:

- The date, time and speed at which the truck plows.
- The air and road temperatures.

- How much salt and sand is used while plowing.
- How much of a road is plowed and what remains to be plowed.

Thirteen trucks have been newly equipped with pre-wetting kits

The pre-wet kits consist of two tanks on either side of the vehicle that store salt brine – a mixture of salt and water. Pre-wetting is the process of 'wetting' the salt right before it is applied to the pavement. This allows the salt to stick to the pavement instead of bouncing off. For the first time, the transportation department is making its own salt brine at Medina; the brine is then shipped to a 7,000 gallon holding tank in Osseo.

## Recycle Electronics

Got old electronics in your basement or garage? The average US household is storing two to three old televisions and computers.

Recycle them for free! Most electronics contain toxic metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium. If any of these contaminants gets into our rivers, streams or lakes, they can harm our health and damage the environment.

**Hennepin County takes electronics free of charge, year-round, from residents at drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington.**

[South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center 1400 West 96th Street, Bloomington](#)

[Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park](#)

The facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Electronics accepted include TVs, computers (CPUs, monitors, laptops), computer peripherals (keyboards, printers, etc), VCRs, DVD players, stereos, and more. Some quantity limits apply. These items are accepted from households only. Electronics from businesses are not accepted at the facilities.

For more information on Hennepin County's Drop-off Facilities and how to recycle electronics call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) search: A to Z Guide

## Christmas Trees

The City does not offer a city wide collection of Christmas trees.

Each household is responsible for properly disposing their Christmas tree on their own. Check with your local garbage hauler to arrange a special pick-up or bring it to a compost site that accepts trees, wreaths and garland.

Please do not throw trees in the road right away.

Most garbage haulers offer Christmas tree pickup one to three weeks after the holidays for a fee.

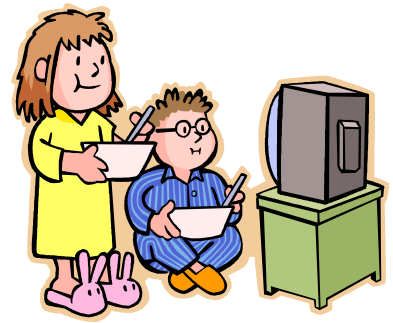


1912—A first class (parlor suite) ticket on Titanic cost \$4,350, which translates into \$90,000 in 2006 USD.

## What you need to know about the February 2009 switch to DTV

By law, television stations nationwide must switch from the old method of transmitting TV signals known as analog to digital television (DTV) on February 17, 2009. Digital television (DTV) is an innovative new type of over-the-air broadcasting technology that enables TV stations to provide dramatically clearer pictures and better sound quality.

While the benefits of DTV are remarkable, millions of households risk losing television reception unless they take the easy steps to receive a digital signal.



DTV is more efficient and more flexible than the traditional broadcast technology known as analog. For example, DTV makes it possible for stations to broadcast multiple channels of free programming simultaneously (called multicasting), instead of broadcasting only one channel at a time. DTV technology can also be used to provide future interactive video and data services that are not possible with analog technology.

If you currently receive free over-the-air television programming on an analog television set, you will need a DTV converter box to continue to receive television service after February 17, 2009.

**You can prepare for the transition to digital television by following one of three simple steps.**

► **Purchase a DTV converter box that will convert the digital signal into analog for an existing television set.**

The DTV converter box, sometimes referred to as a set-top box, is an electronic device that makes the new digital signal viewable on an older "analog" television set. DTV converter boxes will be available for purchase in early 2008, and are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70. **To help consumers cover the cost of the converter box, the federal government will offer up to two converter box coupons valued at \$40 each to households beginning early next year.** The coupons may be used toward the purchase of a single converter box and the coupon program will be administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) [www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov). You will still need an over-the-air antenna in addition to the converter box to receive a digital signal on your analog television set; your current antenna may be adequate, depending on your reception conditions.

► **Purchase a new television set with a built-in digital tuner.**

Another option you may choose is to upgrade to a new television set with a built-in digital tuner. As with older sets, you will need an over-the-air antenna that provides quality reception of over-the-air analog television signals to pick up free digital broadcast programming from local stations. Before deciding to purchase a new digital TV, you should make sure your current TV doesn't already have a built-in digital tuner. Most sets sold in the last few years that are larger than 27 inches will likely have a digital tuner.

► **Subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company television service provider.**

All of these services will allow you to receive digital television signals on your analog television set. No additional equipment is required if you decide to go this route. However, be sure to check that the pay service you choose carries all of the program services provided by the local broadcast stations.

**To learn more, go to: <http://www.dtvanswers.com/> or [www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov).**

### Tips to Reduce & Save

From Thanksgiving to New Years Day, household waste increases 25%. Think about the way we celebrate throughout the year so that we can enjoy a cleaner environment.

#### Top 5 things you can do

- Give gifts that conserve natural resources
- Use reusable tableware
- Buy LED lights
- Recycle
- Reuse gift wrap supplies

### Holiday & String Lights

Holiday lighting can add up to \$50 to your November and December lighting bill. You can have a festive display for much less:

- Invest in Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. They will pay for themselves in one season in reduced energy bills. Their benefits are:
  - Energy-efficient—0.08 watts per LED C7 multicolor bulb. *Compared with 6.0 watts for a standard incandescent C7 bulb.*

- Long life span—up to 100,000 hours or more when used indoors.
- Safety—no chance of combustion since the bulbs are cool to the touch.
- Sturdy bulbs—the epoxy lenses are virtually indestructible.
- Use timers to turn off lights during overnight and daylight hours to reduce energy consumption.

## RECYCLING

Waste Management collects recycling bi-weekly in Woodland on Thursdays.

Please be sure to have your cart out and available for the driver by 7:00 AM on the pick-up day.

### **PICK-UP DAYS in 2008**

Friday—January 4 (*one day later due to holiday*)

Thursday—January 17

Thursday—January 31

Thursday—February 14

Thursday—February 28

Thursday—March 13

Thursday—March 27

## **Fire Protection Service** The City of

Woodland has a contract with the City of Wayzata for fire protection services. Woodland pays a portion of the Fire Department budget based on the volume of calls. The City believes the most fair and equitable way to cover the cost of fire protection service is to charge back the residence where the fire call originated. Residents are responsible for all costs related to fire calls to their residence whether the call is a false alarm or real fire.

Often, the fire alarm is canceled immediately and prior to the fire trucks arriving at the residence, or even leaving the station. The Wayzata Fire Firefighters are paged instantaneously and they respond, leaving their homes or jobs. The volunteers are paid for responding, even if the call is canceled.

The City of Woodland adopted a fee to assess fire calls to

## **Minnesota Precinct Caucuses**

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

- Democratic-Farmer-labor Party
- Independence Party
- Republican Party

For more information go to the MN Secretary of State's website:

[www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)





## Skating Rinks

Deephaven Ice Rinks & Warming Houses at Village Park and Thorpe Park are open as follows:

### Monday-Friday

4:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

### Saturday

9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

### Sunday

1:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Wayzata Klapprich Park Ice Rink & Warming House  
340 Park Street East, open as follows:

### Monday - Friday

3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

### Weekends

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### When School is not in session

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

## Happenings Around Town



The 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be held at the Xcel Energy center in St. Paul, January 20-27th. To find out more go to: [www.xcelenergycenter.com](http://www.xcelenergycenter.com)

The 2008 U.S. Women's Open will be held at the Interlachen Country Club in Edina, MN. June 23-29, 2008. Ticket are on sale now.

[www.2008uswomensopen.com](http://www.2008uswomensopen.com)



## Saint Paul Winter Carnival January 23rd – February 3rd, 2008

A 12 day celebration of winter!

Harriet Island Regional Park in downtown Saint Paul (across the river from the Science Museum of Minnesota) will be "Winter Carnival Park" for many of the events and activities that make this the "Coolest Celebration on Earth! Take a ride down the giant snow slide, try your hand at mushing a sled dog team, get lost in the amazing ice maze, warm up in the Minnesota Hot Dish Tent and take in the beauty of the snow and ice sculptures. These activities and more will be available on the island during the 2008 Saint Paul Winter Carnival. More Information—Go to: [www.winter-carnival.com/events/](http://www.winter-carnival.com/events/)

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