



# Mahtomedi News

JANUARY - MARCH 2017

[www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us)

MAHTOMEDI CITY HALL  
600 Stillwater Road  
Mahtomedi, MN 55115  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M-F)  
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## Message from the Mayor

As we are in the depths of winter, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the great summer and fall we had this year, despite the heavy rains that delayed the completion of City construction projects. One of the new projects this year is a new connection to the old Streetcar Trail.

I have had the opportunity to walk the new paved trail constructed this year along Highway 244 and around the west end of Hamline Lake (north of the District Education Center) several times a week. The trail is a wonderful way for us to enjoy the outdoor nature opportunities we have to offer. One day, my wife and I watched the water as it flowed under Quail Street to White Bear Lake. It presented the opportunity to see little fish in the stream and we even watched three deer stopping at the stream for their morning drink. I also noticed the water flow from Hamline Lake to the stream became much faster and deeper, and as we walked east on the old railroad track bed, we came to the place where water from Depot Lake overflowed and ran south under Briarwood Road to Hamline Lake. The stream had a mighty flow and the sound of water moving over the rocks and tree branches could be heard. My wife and I asked, where did all this water come from? So, my wife took a lot of pictures and by looking at the pictures, we could have been up north looking at a trout stream, but in reality it was new water coming from Depot Lake due to muskrats who had plugged up the overflow outlet in order to have enough water to build their large mound houses in the lake. Since the water was a flooding concern, our excellent City crew reduced the size of the obstruction and there you have it, more water in White Bear Lake.

In our City, we have many unique sights, we only need to walk our wonderful trails and allow our imagination to carry us away. I have lived here all my life and when I was young, I walked right past these sights and took them for granted. Now that I am retired, I walk more slowly and see the many things that I have missed. This is one of the many reasons I enjoy so much being mayor of this City.

— Mayor Jud Marshall

## Rebate Program for Water Conservation

As part of the City of Mahtomedi's Water Conservation Program, the City is offering **\$50 rebates** to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush. Washing machines must be Energy Star-Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis and funds are available until they are gone. One rebate check per household and the City will accept original receipts for toilet or washing machines purchased in the last six months.



Forms are available on the City's website at [www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us). For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.

### Attention Mahtomedi Utility Customers

#### FREE Payment and Billing Services

To view or pay utility bills, go to [www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us) or call 877-885-7968. Pay now, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay. An email will be sent to you when your bill is ready. You may pay by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) or eCheck (payment from your checking or savings account). Please opt out of paper bills to help save money and be GREEN.



## Public Works Department News

### Winter Parking Regulations

- On-street parking is not allowed in the City of Mahtomedi between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1 and April 1.
- No parking is allowed on any public street when the snow depth exceeds 3" until all streets are fully cleaned.
- Residents who violate the ordinance may be ticketed and/or have their vehicle towed. Be sure to inform relatives or guests who may visit your home about the winter parking restrictions so they can avoid being cited or towed. Questions about the winter parking regulations or snow and ice control procedures may be directed to the Public Works Department at 651-773-9730.

### Snow Pushing Notice

Minnesota Statute 160.27, subdivision 5, Minnesota laws of 1986, advises that pushing/blowing snow from driveways and sidewalks onto public roads may be punishable as a misdemeanor. Snow dumped on roadways creates a real hazard to passing motorists which can cause serious accidents. Even heavy snowplows have been damaged when hitting compacted and frozen snow deposited on the roadways. Because the practice is illegal to begin with, the person depositing the snow, as the prime cause of any accident, may also find him/herself faced with civil liability lawsuits.

We urge you, as good neighbors, not to add to the hazards of winter time driving in this way.

### Salt Instead of Salt/Sand Mixture

The City has eliminated the use of sand in its daily winter road maintenance operations, for a couple of reasons. First, while sand can help provide traction over existing ice, it does not actually melt ice or prevent its formation. Second, much of the sand applied to streets, parking lots,

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## Announcements

### Triangle Park Veteran's Memorial

This spring, the current Veteran's Memorial area in Triangle Park will be greatly improved thanks to generous donations from area civic club organizations and the American Legion. Improvements will include site work with new landscaping, a concrete walkway to the current monument, seat stones, garden paths, new drinking fountain and a bike rack. The improvements will enhance the site to better accent the current flagpole and monument and make the memorial more visible for pedestrians and motorists.

The improvements are possible thanks to \$30,000 in donations from the White Bear Lake Area Rotary Club, Wildwood Lion's Club, and Kramer-Berg American Legion Post #507. Each organization is donating \$10,000 toward the project. Work is expected to begin sometime in the spring with a dedication tentatively scheduled for late spring or summer.

The City would like to thank the three organizations for their generous contributions to make this project happen.



Triangle Park Veteran's Memorial

### Thank You Adopt-a-Park Volunteers!

The City of Mahtomedi would like to thank all of its 2016 Adopt-a-Park Volunteers. The following individuals, families or organizations have worked hard to assist the City with maintaining the beautiful Mahtomedi parks:

- Neighbors of Chautauqua Park
- Mahtomedi Girl Scouts – Katherine Abbott
- Liebel Family – Street Car Park
- Kramer-Berg American Legion Auxiliary – Triangle Park
- Wildwood Lions Club – Wildwood Park

The City would also like to extend its gratitude to the Mahtomedi Garden Club for their wonderful contribution in beautifying the City with plantings.

Additional volunteers are always welcome for the many parks and trails within the City. Call City Hall at 651-426-3344 for more information.

### Winter Skating Party

**Sunday, January 22, 2017, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Location: ice rink located behind the District Education Center – 1520 Mahtomedi Avenue**

(In case of inclement weather, it will be held on January 29)

**Come and join the outdoor fun at the 22nd annual skating party. Enjoy the warmth of a roaring fire, a hot beverage and other fun activities including hay wagon rides. This is a free community activity brought to you by the Mahtomedi Parks Commission and Mahtomedi School District 832. Hope to see you there!**



# Finance Department News

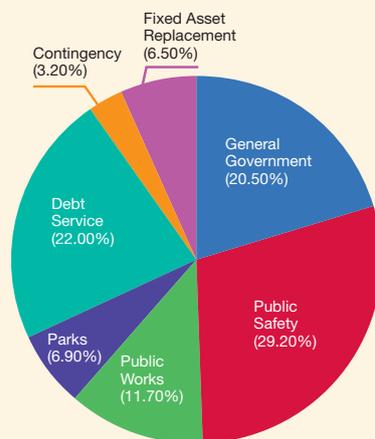
## City Council Approves Final 2017 Budgets, Tax Levy and Fee Schedule

This newsletter article will summarize the Final 2017 Budgets and City Property Tax Levy.

On December 6, 2016, the Mahtomedi City Council approved the 2017 General Fund, Park Fund and Utility Fund Budgets. The Final 2017 General Fund Operating Budget was approved at \$5,491,389 (6.25% increase from 2016). The Final City Tax Levy was approved at \$4,116,147 (6.71% increase from 2016). The budget includes an increase in the debt service levy of \$185,700 (18.21% increase from 2016). This increase is for the Historic District Phase II improvements. The budget also includes expenditures for the Comprehensive Plan Update and a Community Survey.

The Park Fund Budget has planned expenditures of \$205,000. The budget includes \$175,000 in planned Katherine Abbott Trail improvements.

The Utility Fund Budget's include the Water Fund of \$1,226,003 (10.29% increase). This increase is primarily due to the meter replacement program, Sewer Fund of \$1,162,517 (2.51% increase) and the Storm Water Fund of \$352,510 (27.21% increase). This increase is primarily due to increased debt service transfers for Historic District Phase II improvements.



The graph shows the percentage of each tax dollar by government function/program.

## Forestry

### Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease

Thank you to all Mahtomedi residents that have assisted the City with our efforts to eradicate oak wilt and Dutch elm disease.

You may have noticed oak and elm trees marked with red rings and the number "16" this summer. These are trees that were deemed by the forestry staff as having Dutch elm disease in the elms and oak wilt in the red oaks during the summer of 2016. When trees are marked, City staff identifies the property owners and notifies the owners of the marked trees and their responsibilities to remove these trees.

Wilting elm trees are required to be removed within 20 days of the notifications. After diseased elms are taken down, bark-intact wood, over 3" in diameter must be chipped, de-barked, burned (with proper burning permit) or buried to prevent spread of the fungus by elm bark beetles. Covering and keeping bark-intact elm wood is not permitted between April 1 and September 15.

Oak trees in the red oak family that are identified as having oak wilt will be marked by the forestry crew. It's important to note that white oaks with oak wilt do not produce oak wilt spores and do not contribute to the overland spread of oak wilt. Only wilting red oaks are considered infectious and marked. During the city-wide inspections for infectious trees, only infectious trees are marked. Hazard trees are handled in a different way and are not marked in this fashion. The City of Mahtomedi requires removal of the marked trees by February 1 of the year following wilting and the wood should be processed before April 1. Infected wood may be retained for use as firewood only if properly covered and aged. Proper disposal of infectious wood recommendations are available at city hall. Any additional questions regarding the City of Mahtomedi's infectious tree program can be directed to the city forester at 651-747-3736.

## Public Works Department News (continued from page 2)

and sidewalks eventually washes into the nearest waterway, where it can fill wetlands, lakes, and creeks, or obstruct the flow of water through storm sewers. The City will still keep a small amount of sand on hand for instances when immediate traction is needed (such as ice storms) or when temperatures are too low for salt to be effective.

Please contact the Public Works Department at 651-773-9730 if you have any questions or concerns. We wish everyone a happy and safe winter!

### Think Snow!

The Mahtomedi Public Works Departments starts thinking about snow in the summer months during the annual operating budget process with the City Council. Snow and ice control programs require careful planning, skilled operators and proper snowplowing equipment to maintain expected levels of service as cost effectively as possible.

The Public Works Department provides winter maintenance service to 50 centerline miles of streets, all city owned parking lots, the well houses and sewer lift stations and approximately 7 miles of trails and sidewalks. Providing snow and ice control services is a monumental and time-consuming task.

A typical full-scale snow operation usually takes 9-11 hours to complete the street system, parking lots and utility buildings. Trails and sidewalks are typically completed the following day. Anytime during the winter months there can be equipment plowing or applying ice control materials on streets or parking lots. The obstacles and hazards seen by snowplow operators are parked vehicles, garbage containers, vehicles driving too fast or too close to the plow and, especially important, children sliding and/or building snow forts too close to streets.

## Mahtomedi Garden Club Grants

The Mahtomedi Garden Club is offering grants to suitable garden-related projects in Mahtomedi, Willernie and adjacent communities. The application form can be found at the club's website:

[www.mahtomedigardenclub.org](http://www.mahtomedigardenclub.org).

Proposals must be received on or before April 1, 2017.

## Dog Licenses Due

Licenses are required for any dog over six (6) months of age and are due by March 31. A person is not required to obtain a license for dogs which are brought into the City solely for participation in any dog show or which are being kept in the City by a person fostering the dog for an animal rescue group. The City will issue a dog license at no charge to a properly trained and certified guide dog for visually impaired persons, or service dog for disabled persons, provided that the owner of such dog provides the City with proof satisfactory to the City that the dog is a certified guide or service dog.

The biennial fee for the license is \$10.00 and available at City Hall.

The owner of the dog must provide a certificate showing that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Any dog that is unlicensed and any dog found running at large are declared a public nuisance.

## Fire Department News

### Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide



**Did you know?** Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a tasteless odorless and invisible gas. Signs of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation. Cooking and heating elements that burn fuel and are not properly ventilated or have malfunctioned can be a source of CO in your home.

#### Tips for Protecting You and Your Family from CO

Install a carbon monoxide alarm within 10 feet of each sleeping room, test your CO alarms monthly. Replace CO alarms that are more than 6 years old. If your CO detector alarms and you feel ill, call 911 immediately. If your CO alarm goes off and you feel fine, call your utility company and open your doors and windows to clear out any CO. Clear snow and debris away from furnace, dryer, fireplace or oven vents around your home to prevent CO buildup. Don't run any fuel-fired appliances such as generators or vehicles in enclosed attached garages.

Carbon monoxide alarms are cheap and easy to install. Take some time and help protect your family from this invisible killer!

#### Smoke Alarms

**Did you know?** Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and replaced every 10 years. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year.

#### What you need to know about smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Teach children an escape plan.
- Interconnect your homes smoke alarms. This way if one goes off they all do.
- Place alarms on the ceiling at least 4 inches from the wall; alarms mounted on the wall must be 4 to 12 inches below the ceiling.

#### Employee Recognition

In 2016, the City Council recognized the following City of Mahtomedi employees for their years of dedicated service to the community:

- **City Hall Staff:** Scott Schaefer – 5 years; Jerene Rogers – 15 years
- **Public Works Staff:** Brian Randt and Jeff Laue – 10 years
- **Fire Department Staff:** Josh Buck and Tim Oachs – 5 years; Chris Wakefield – 30 years

## City of Mahtomedi

600 STILLWATER ROAD  
MAHTOMEDI, MN 55115

### Mahtomedi: A "Small Town" City

**...Close knit small town atmosphere.** Residents have strong connections with each other and take pride in the community. By working together to maintain the small town atmosphere, residents, business and community leaders have created a safe environment in which to live, work and learn.

**...Natural Resources.** The abundance of bodies of water, vegetation and nature areas create a natural setting for City parks for residents to enjoy.

**...Excellent Education.** The educational system and educational opportunities provided in cooperation with the Mahtomedi School District and Community Education creates an informed community.

**...Location.** Located on the east shore of White Bear Lake, within twenty minutes of Minneapolis and St. Paul with direct access to Interstate 694 provide residents and businesses with a place to call home.

**...History.** The history of the Chautauqua Association, Wildwood Amusement Park, cottages, street cars and summer resorts have contributed to the historical significance of the community.

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# green talk



## 2017 Rite of Spring Event

The 11th Annual RITE of Spring (Really Into the Earth) event will be held in April 2017. Please watch for information on the City's website. The spring newsletter will provide a complete schedule and event information.

### Is Your Toilet Leaking?

#### Free Toilet Testing Tablets Available at City Hall

Drop these tablets into your toilet tank and wait a few minutes. Do not flush the toilet. If the toilet water turns blue, the seal around the flapper is leaking water from the tank to the bowl. This type of leak is often very hard to detect because it may not make filling or leaking noises or the fill valve may only kick on every 10 or 20 minutes (while you are not present). If your flapper is leaking, replace the flapper or toilet immediately! This is the most common water wasting problem in the home — it can rack up your water bill fast and you may not find out until you get the bill!

The tablets contain only FDA approved, non-toxic, non-carcinogenic pigments (not harmful if swallowed), packaged in moisture-resistant packs, detects leaks in any size toilet and come two tablets per packet.

### Recycling Information

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Tews Family on Birchwood Road** and the **Gibson Family on Berwick Place** for their extra efforts in recycling. Keep up the good work! For their extra effort, these families may stop in at City Hall and pick up a free *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* water bottle. Each quarter we will pick two families to acknowledge.

### Protect Your Drinking Water



On-site sewage treatment systems (septic systems) contribute to groundwater contamination if they are not operated properly or if not maintained on a regular schedule. Contamination of the groundwater can lead to the pollution of local wells, streams, lakes, and ponds — exposing family, friends, and neighbors to waterborne diseases and other health risks. Maintaining your septic system can also save you money by prolonging its life.

How to protect your drinking water resources:

- Make sure your system is compliant with local regulations.
- Have your system pumped every 2-3 years, and inspected once each year.
- Practice water conservation.
- Prevent paint or other hazardous materials from entering the system.
- Don't use harsh household chemicals or additives.
- Use liquid soaps for washing dishes and clothes.
- Check with a certified septic technician for help with system problems.

## Practice the 3 Rs when Getting Rid of Old Stuff

Minnesotans throw away three million tons in a year. Let's lower that number practicing the 3 Rs — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

**Reduce:** Less to begin with is part of the solution. Some of the things you can do include:

- Buy in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Use reusable bags and containers when shopping or packing lunches.
- Make use of community resources, like libraries or rental stores, to borrow materials instead of purchasing.
- Bypass a single-use product if a refillable or reusable version is available.
- Check into getting a broken household item repaired before you replace it.

**Reuse:** Many people throw out items that would be useful to others, leaving our garbage cans full and others wanting or buying new the very things that are being thrown away! Find a new home for your unwanted items, including clothing or household goods, by hosting a garage sale, using an online resale or donation site, or donating to a thrift shop or charitable organization.

**Recycle:** About 40% of what we throw away can be recycled according to a study released by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Are you using your curbside recycling to its fullest? Make sure you are recycling as much as you can including paper, cartons, metal, plastic and glass from your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, office and other areas throughout your house. The paper, metal and glass you recycle are manufactured into new paper, cans, bottles and jars. Recycled plastic is manufactured into a variety of items, from toothbrushes to chairs to soda bottles to carpet.

Save money and the planet by getting rid of old stuff the green way using the 3 Rs — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

*Materials provided by the Solid Waste management Coordinating Board*

## Money and Energy-saving Tips — Heating



- 1. Have Your Furnace Regularly Maintained by a Professional**  
Regular furnace maintenance can reduce energy costs between \$18 and \$60 each winter with an 80% efficient furnace in a 1,600 square foot home.
- 2. Keep Your Fireplace Damper Closed**  
Keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use to prevent up to 5% heat loss. When using the fireplace, turn down your thermostat and open a window near the fireplace to prevent warm air from being pulled from other areas of your house.
- 3. Seal Duct Leaks**  
Seal leaky ducts with mastic, metal-backed tape or aerosol sealant. This will reduce heat loss when your furnace is on and may last longer than duct tape.
- 4. Use a Programmable Thermostat**  
This device can save as much as 20% on heating costs by automatically turning your heating system up or down to coincide with your daily routine. For example, set your thermostat to 60 degrees for the night and while you are away.



- 5. Keep Your Furnace or Heat Pump Filter Clean**  
Dirty filters reduce airflow, making your equipment work harder and use more energy. Replace your furnace filter monthly during the heating season, and you could reduce heating costs by 5%.
- 6. Open Inside Doors to Improve Air Circulation**  
Keep the doors inside your home open to improve air circulation and the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems.

**7. Use Ventilation Fans Only as Needed**

Don't forget to turn off a kitchen or bathroom ventilation fan. In just an hour, all the heated air in your home can be drawn out through an exhaust vent.

**8. Use Passive Solar Heating On Sunny Days**

Open drapes on south-facing windows when it is sunny. At night, close drapes to retain heat. Close drapes to provide insulation where windows receive no direct sunlight. Up to 15% of your heat can escape through unprotected windows.

**9. Choose High-Efficiency Furnace and Boiler Systems**

The furnaces with the highest efficiency ratings, 90% or more, use approximately 15% less energy than other models. You could save as much as \$100 each heating season with a high-efficiency natural gas furnace.

**10. Lower Your Thermostat Setting**

Reduce indoor thermostat temperature from 72 to 68 degrees during the heating season to save 5% on heating costs.



**11. Ensure Your Home Is Properly Insulated**

Poor or no insulation means losing up to 25% of your heating energy. Your attic needs at least six inches of insulation. Insulate crawl spaces, walls, floors and heating ducts to save money and increase your comfort.

*Article provided by Xcel Energy*