



Mahtomedi News

MARCH — APRIL 2020

www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us

MAHTOMEDI CITY HALL
600 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
EDITORS CITY STAFF

MAYOR
Jud Marshall
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Richard Brainerd, Jeff Ledermann,
Jane Schneeweis, Steve Wolgamot

CITY HALL 651-426-3344
FIRE DEPARTMENT 651-426-1080
PUBLIC WORKS 651-773-9730
WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF
911 OR 651-439-9381

Rite Of Spring Event to be Held at Mahtomedi Middle School

The 14th Annual RITE (Really into the Earth) of Spring event will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2020** between **10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** at the Mahtomedi Middle School located at 8100 75th Street North.

This free family friendly event is sponsored by the City of Mahtomedi, Mahtomedi Community Education, and community volunteers.

The event will feature various organizations with information tables.

The Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment will again this year host **Household Hazardous Waste Event** from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (Accepted free of charge from households only — no businesses.) Proof of residency required.

- **Household items** include mercury thermometers and thermostats, fluorescent bulbs (bundled together with rubber bands), household cleaners, sharps, syringes, needles and used EpiPens in a sealed sturdy container, computers and monitors, peripherals (keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.), printers and fax machines, TV's, DVD and VCR players and cell phones.
- **Home Improvement** — Latex/oil paint and stain, paint remover/thinner.
- **Automotive and Recreation** — Antifreeze, used motor oil and filters, propane tanks, rechargeable batteries.
- **Yard and Garden** — Insect/roach/ant killer, fertilizers/herbicides.

Again this year, Washington County will hold a prescription drug “take back” event from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(See below for what's accepted and not accepted in drop box)

Accepted at Drop Box	NOT Accepted at Drop Box	Preparing for drop off
Prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications from households. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pills & capsules • Blister packs • Creams & gels • Unused EpiPens • Inhalers & patches • Liquids, powders and sprays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No medications from businesses accepted • No needles, used EpiPens, syringes, lancets or thermometers • No liquid chemotherapy drugs Items above accepted at the Environmental Center 4039 Cottage Grove Drive Woodbury, MN 55129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to cross off your name — drop-off is anonymous (no ID required) • Keep medications in original container • If you don't have the original container, place in small bag

A New Face Elected to the City Council

On November 5, 2019, **Jane Schneeweis** was elected to the City Council. Jane and her husband, Bob have lived in Mahtomedi for 37 years. Bob grew up in Mahtomedi, and they moved back when he and



Jane had children, wanting to raise them in this wonderful community that values education, quality of life and the rich history of the area. Both of their children are graduates of Mahtomedi Schools. Jane has a bachelor's degree in education, and a master's degree in counseling psychology. As a former psychologist and teacher, she brings her training and years of experience into her work as a mediator and facilitator. She has a strong commitment to ensuring all voices are heard and supports those working towards solutions that assist individuals and organizations in resolving conflicts. Jane has always been active in Mahtomedi schools and community initiatives as well as projects throughout the metro area and is currently involved in the Greater White Bear Lake Foundation Leadership Program. Jane is also the city council liaison to the Mahtomedi Parks Commission, and as a mother, grandmother and educator, knows how important beautiful green play space is.

One of her favorite quotes is from F.S. Fitzgerald: “The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time

— Continued on page 2

New Face, *continued from page 1*

and still retain the ability to function.” She believes we need to be able to put ourselves in another’s shoes — especially those with conflicting ideas. This basic skill can transform relationships and expand circles of understanding. Her facilitation and mediation work revolves around this principle. “Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand, the potential of open, honest, and respectful communication. I love the collaborative nature of the council and staff, and am excited and grateful to be able to work with them to understand and address the needs and challenges of our community.”

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Public Works Activities

The Public Works Department has a busy spring coming up with the following necessary maintenance activities:

- Street sweeping will begin early to mid-April weather permitting and may take several weeks to complete. **Try to avoid parking on the street between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**
- Hydrant flushing is tentatively scheduled to begin around mid-April. The flushing can cause turbulence in the water mains and discoloration may result. The water is of good quality, but if discoloration occurs, run the water at an outside faucet until it is clean, usually 10-15 minutes.
- Pothole patching will begin early April and continue throughout the summer. If you notice a pothole, please call Public Works at **651-773-9730**.
- Preparation of City parks for opening will be accomplished April through May.

Construction! Construction! Construction!

Well if you thought last year was hectic with the construction of Stillwater Road and the work down in the Echo Lake Development, wait until you see what the City is planning to get done in the 2020 construction season.

First off there is the rehabilitation of Birchwood Road and Lost Lake Court. New curbing and pavement will be part of this project. In addition, the City will be upgrading the 70 year-old water main on Birchwood Road that supplies water to several Mahtomedi and Birchwood residents. Relining of the sanitary sewer will also take place as part of a separate construction project. Finally, an off-road segment of the Lake Links Trail will be constructed along the north side of Birchwood Road from Wildwood Beach Road to the City limits.



The next project for 2020 is Dahlia Street from Mahtomedi Avenue to Warner Avenue. This project will consist of curbing, new pavement, and certain storm sewer improvements. In addition to the street improvements, a new larger sized watermain will be installed along the entire route.

The 3rd large project for 2020 is the extension of sanitary sewer and water to an area of the City where it currently is not available. Bevins Lane and the eastern portion of Bichner Lane are currently not served by City sewer and water. In addition to these 2 streets the City will be extending sanitary sewer along the private street, Talahi Drive. Talahi Drive is already served by City water.

The 4th public infrastructure adventure is primarily a storm sewer and pond maintenance project. Certain ponds along East Avenue and Long Lake Road will be dredged out. New storm sewers are proposed to be installed to an outlet, to a pond on Hallam Avenue and to solve drainage problems on Harmony Drive and Park Avenue. Finally, a storm water pumping station is planned for the pond on Robert Street near Florence Avenue.

Now for the pièce de résistance, the City is beginning the final phase of the street and utility reconstruction in the Historic District. The initial portion of Phase 4 of the Historic District are those streets north from Neptune Street to the north border with the City of Dellwood all west of Mahtomedi Avenue (TH 244). Those streets include Neptune Street, Oak Street, Park Avenue, Pine Street, Quail Street, Rose Street, Tamarack Street and Tip Top Lane. The majority of these streets will be getting curbing, storm sewer, new pavement and gravel, new properly sized watermains, valves, hydrants and new water services to the property lines. Several of the sanitary sewers will also be relined as part of a separate contract.

If all that wasn’t enough, the City will also be contracting for the annual sealcoating, crack sealing and street line painting work. Also as previously mentioned there will be a sewer relining project going on in 2020. Of course, there is some work on Stillwater Road and in the Echo Lake area that didn’t get finished last year so watch for that, too!

So be wary of construction signage, workers in vests, detour signs and construction equipment. Please slow down in construction zones for everyone’s safety. It is going to be a hectic season in 2020 and everyone’s help is needed.

green talk



Yard Waste and Organics Sign-up

As part of the new five-year recycling contract with Waste Management, we are offering residents the opportunity to opt-in and sign up for curbside weekly yard waste and organics collection.

The City must have a minimum of 100 residents sign-up in order for the collection service to begin. We currently have 91 residents. The cost of the weekly collection service for 2020 is \$14.15/month and will be billed on your quarterly utility bill.

The following are food and organics, and yard waste items that would be collected:

 <p>Produce Fruits & vegetables</p>	 <p>Meat All cooked and raw meat products including bones, shells, fish, beef & chicken</p>	 <p>Diary Milk, yogurt, ice cream & cheese</p>
 <p>Bakery & Dry Goods Pasta, beans rice, bread & cereal</p>	 <p>Floral Plants & flowers</p>	 <p>Compostable Serveware Wooden utensils, paper plates & cups</p>
 <p>Soiled Paper Goods Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins & uncoated take-out containers</p>	 <p>Leaves, Grass Clippings, Pine Needles, Small Twigs & Brush Brush items must be bundled into limbs no larger than 3 inches in diameter, no longer than 3-4 feet in length and less than 2 feet in diameter on the bundles</p>	

**NOT ACCEPTED

Sod, dirt, tree stumps, hay, mulch, wood chips, sawdust, lumber, pine cones, animal feces and deceased animals.

If you are interested in this service, please fill out and return the form at the City's website www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us.

Utility Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2020

Utility rates have increased in the water, sewer and stormwater utility funds as approved in the 2020 Budget. These increases are needed to support necessary capital improvements and repairs needed to the systems. The new rates are:

Residential Water Rates

The water rate structure is made up of two components; the fixed demand charge per quarter and the tiered usage charge.

The residential single family Water Demand Charge for water has increased from \$17.48 per quarter to \$18.88.

The residential water usage charge per unit (1 unit = 748 gallons of water) increased to:

- **Tier 1:** 0-20 Units (100 cubic feet per unit or 0-14,960 gallons) — \$2.89
- **Tier 2:** 21-33 Units (14,461-24,684 gallons) — \$3.02
- **Tier 3:** 34-45 Units (24,685-33,660 gallons) — \$3.65
- **Tier 4:** Over 45 Units (Over 33,660 gallons) — \$5.10

Commercial, schools, irrigation and multi-family customers also have separate tiered structures designed to promote water conservation for their types of usage.

Residential Sewer Rates

- Sewer Demand Charge increased from \$15.39 to \$15.85 per quarter
- Sewer Usage Charge increased from \$5.81 per unit (100 cubic feet) to \$5.98
- Non-metered sewer service charge increased from \$148.80 to \$153.26 per quarter.

Residential Stormwater Charges

- Single Family dwelling unit fee increased from \$28.13 to \$30.94 per quarter.

Residential Recycling Rate

- Recycling Charge fee decreased from \$9.26 to \$8.81 per quarter.



A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Van De Velde Family on Bruening Court** and the **Linde Family on Warner Avenue North** 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.



Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019–2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300. Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing 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. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.

Potential Changes to Your Trash Bill

Did you know that the average household produces about one ton of trash per year? Everything that you put in your trash cart is delivered to the Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center) in Newport, MN, where it is processed to recover metals for recycling and make renewable fuel used to generate electricity. By processing trash at the R&E Center and through recycling, yard waste, food waste, and household hazardous waste collection programs, over 90% of waste in Ramsey and Washington counties is diverted from landfills.

In 2020, the R&E Center will be ending a subsidy and adjusting its rates. **For the average household, this may equate to an increase of about \$1.00-1.25 per month on your garbage bill.** The disposal cost (the fee haulers pay to deliver trash to the R&E Center) is approximately 1/3 of the total cost of garbage service (other costs include insurance, labor, fuel, trucks, etc.). If your bill is increasing by more than \$1.25 per month, this is likely due to other business factors for your hauler.

Funds that previously subsidized waste management will be used to help residents, businesses, and the county better manage waste, providing quality public service and protecting health and environment for current and future generations.

For More Information

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy
www.morevaluelesstrash.com/tipfees-rebates

Avoid Energy Waste in Cold Weather

The Minnesota heating season is in full-swing as cold weather crept in earlier than expected. And as temperatures continue to dive throughout the state heating bills will be moving in the opposite direction. In addition to straining our wallets, high energy bills can also signal energy waste.

Another indication that a home could be wasting energy is the existence of drafts and cold spots in the home. A lack of insulation and air sealing creates a condition where warm air escapes through the top of the house, and cooler air is then pulled in from below. As a result, we need to turn up the temperature, which makes the furnace work harder.

Energy waste is also observable from outside the home in the form of ice dams on the roof. **The main cause of ice dams is warm air escaping into an attic that is not properly sealed and melting the snow on the roof.** Many of us will notice some icicles during the winter months but in the more extreme cases excessive ice build-up can lead to water damage inside the home.

If some of these symptoms such as high bills, draftiness or ice dams sound familiar your home would likely benefit from some basic energy efficiency improvements. **A good first step is to schedule a Home Energy Squad visit.**

The Home Energy Squad will visit your home to install energy saving products such as:

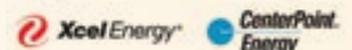
- LED bulbs
- Door weather-stripping
- Faucet aerators and shower heads
- Water heater wrap
- Programmable thermostat

At the same time, the Home Energy Squad team will conduct an energy assessment that includes:

- Insulation inspection
- Blower door test
- Infrared camera
- Carbon monoxide safety check
- Help with next steps

The Home Energy Squad is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy and delivered by the local nonprofit, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Mahtomedi residents also receive a discount and pay only \$50 (normally \$100) for the assessment plus all of the materials.

To schedule your home visit, call 651-328-6220.



FORESTRY NEWS

Stem Girdling Roots — The Hidden Killer of Trees

Stem girdling roots or SGR's can have a number of causes. It is believed the most common cause is trees being planted with j-shaped roots. Trees can come directly from the nursery with j-roots if the trees have been held long enough in a container or root-ball where the roots have grown out to the edge of a plastic container or root ball. When the roots make contact with the edge they begin to bend and grow along the edge. This forms the j-shaped root that will continue to grow in this direction. When trees are planted then with these j-roots they are being planted with a problem in the making. This problem is quite common on species of maple trees and lindens.

Trees grow by adding a new layer of vascular cambium each year composed of a thin layer of cells that do all of the work of the vascular system. This layer expands exponentially each year to keep up with growth of the canopy and the root system. The vascular system is the "plumbing" part of the tree necessary for the movement of water and sugars produced by the tree.

Problems begin arising after the tree has been in the ground a few years and those j-roots continue to grow and slowly encircle the root collar and/or the stem (encircling roots). During this growth, both the stem of the tree and the roots are getting wider by adding new vascular tissue each year. Eventually the encircling roots come into contact with the root collar or stem tissue and become girdling roots (SGR's). The girdling becomes a problem when the root prevents the girdled tissue from expanding and growing new vascular tissue on that part of the tree. Remember, the tree has to get bigger each year to keep up with growth. Instead, with the girdling roots, the vascular system begins to get smaller which restricts the flow of materials, especially water.

The restricted flow of water will usually show up as dead and drying leaves and branches at the top of the tree. As time goes on this dieback increases and the symptoms on the tree become more pronounced. In its later stages, these trees can also go into fall dormancy early and be completely defoliated by the end of August. If caught early, sometimes the tree can be saved by excavating around the root collar of the tree and removing the offending SGR's. The best treatment is to prevent the problem in the first place by inspecting all plants before planting them for j-roots.

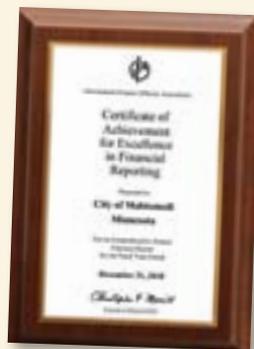
If a j-root is cut off at the bend or before the bend then the root will grow straight away from the tree as it is supposed to. Various techniques for doing this severing can be found on-line. It is easily accomplished on bare-root trees, a little more difficult with potted trees and extremely difficult on balled and burlapped trees. It's always a good idea to get advice from a forestry professional or certified arborist if you are noticing problems with your trees or need help with girdling root treatments.

FINANCE NEWS

City Awarded the 2018 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

This is the City's 28th consecutive year receiving this award. The GFOA states that "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the government and its management."

To receive the award, the City's 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Thank You!

The City of Mahtomedi would like to thank Jeff Charlesworth, Dairy Queen, Domino's Pizza, Liquor Barrel and Ox and Crow Coffeehouse for their generous donations to the Mahtomedi Skating Party that was held on January 12, 2020. Also a special thank you to the volunteers from the Park Commission, Hockey Association and Mahtomedi School District 832.

Canoe Storage

Canoe Storage is available at Chautauqua Park, Echo Lake Park and Mahtomedi Beach. Applications are available on the City's website www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us or at City Hall. Applications will be accepted April 1st through April 15th. If you have questions please call City Hall at **651-426-3344**.

Mahtomedi Garden Club

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE —

Friday, May 8th from **noon to 7:00 p.m.** and

Saturday, May 9th from **9:00 a.m. to noon**

at the Wedgewood Park Shelter, 211 Wedgewood Drive (across from Aldi's). These premium hanging baskets, geraniums and bedding plants are just in time for Mother's Day. Support your community — shop locally.



GARDEN TOUR — **Sunday, June 28th, noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Advance tickets for \$12 can be purchased at Ox and Crow Coffeehouse, 88 Mahtomedi Avenue, starting June 15th, or online at our website www.mahtomedigardenclub.org. Day-of tickets will also be available at Veterans Memorial Park for \$15 on the day of the tour.

Proceeds from both events support gardening education and community beautification projects in the City of Mahtomedi. Your support is needed and appreciated by all. Please visit our website www.mahtomedigardenclub.org or Facebook for more information on the events.



Prevent Stormwater Pollution — Report Illicit Discharges

An illicit discharge is an unlawful act of disposing, dumping, spilling, emitting or other discharge of any substance other than stormwater into the streets, gutters, ditches, and ponds that make up our stormwater drainage system, or directly into streams or lakes themselves. As a community member, you play a large part in identifying and reducing illicit discharges in our community.

What can you do about illicit discharges? If you see anyone discharging any material other than rainwater in roadside ditches or storm drains, please report it to Public Works at **651-773-9730**. For potentially hazardous materials and petroleum spills, call 9-1-1 FIRST when there is an immediate threat to life or property.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Now Hiring

The Mahtomedi Fire department is currently seeking people interested in a position as Firefighter/EMT. This is a paid per call position. All training and continuing education is provided. We are looking for caring, driven individuals willing to help the community in which they live. **No experience necessary.** Applicants must live within 7 minutes of the fire station. Any questions can be directed to Chief Terry Fischer at **651-747-3752** or **tfischer@mahtomedifire.org**.

Street Address Visibility

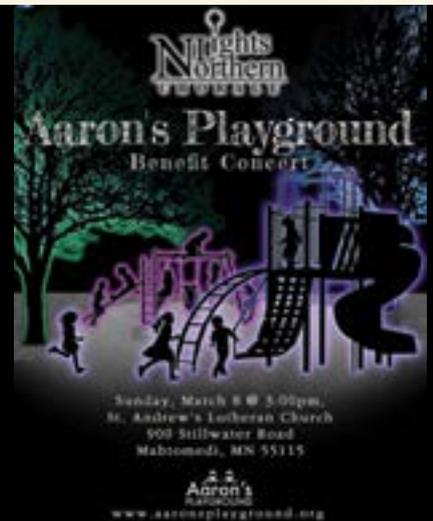
Easily visible addresses on your home provide the local emergency services the ability to quickly locate your home to provide the life-saving care you or your family may require. Lately, several homes in the area that the Fire Department has responded to, have had no visible address from the street. Some addresses are blocked by plants; others may have been removed during home improvement projects.

State code states — Provide approved address numbers (4-inch minimum height and 1/2-inch minimum stroke) that are plainly visible from the street or road. These should be a contrasting color to your home and located either by the street side front door or a corner of an attached garage.

Aaron's Playground Benefit

Come enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music and support the efforts to build a new playground in our city! The Northern Lights Chorale is hosting a cabaret-style benefit concert in support of Aaron's Playground, the initiative to build a memorial playground in Mahtomedi's Southwest Park. All are welcome to attend. Donations appreciated.

Sunday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m.
The Great Hall at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT AARONSPLAYGROUND.ORG.

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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