



Welcome to New Council Members

November 4, 2010 elections resulted in two new Council Members and the return of the incumbent Mayor.

Chris Capaul, Mayor was re-elected and will serve a two year term.

New to the City Council are Erick Boder and Dan Lueth. Welcome to the new Council Members.

City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 PM Mayer City Hall 413 Bluejay Avenue. Meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted to the City's website the Friday before the meeting.



Fire Arms Safety Training



Minnesota Firearms Safety Hunter Education will be offered at the Mayer Community Center for all persons 12 years of age and older (youth must be 12 years old by the next hunting season - adults also welcomed). Parental consent is required and the cost is \$10.00. This course is sponsored by the Mayer - New Germany Sportsman Club. Registration will be held Thursday February 17, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Mayer Community Center and the course will run every Thursday 7 - 9 p.m. until April 14th. Call Beth Schrupp at 952-442-4443 (days) with any questions.

Water and Sewer Rates to Increase

The City of Mayer's water and sewer funds are operating in a deficit. To off set the deficit the City Council has implemented a slight increase in sewer and water rates. The increase is \$.35 per 1000 on water and sewer. Water rates will be \$2.85 and sewer rates will be \$6.10 per 1000. On a water bill of 5000 gallons a resident will have a \$3.50 increase per month. The City does offer reduced rates to residents 65 and older that meet the federal poverty income guidelines. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call the City at 952-657-1502.



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WHERE DOES THE SEWER GO?

The City of Mayer Public Works Department provides for the operation, maintenance, and treatment of wastewater to an environmentally safe level for returning the water back to the ecological system.

City of Mayer has about eleven and a half miles of sanitary sewer mains. Each year about one fifth of the City's sanitary sewer mains are inspected and cleaned. Mains requiring a higher level of maintenance are cleaned annually or semi-annually. This routine maintenance helps to prevent blockages and sewer backups.

As a resident, you can play a key role in preventing sanitary sewer backups. To help prevent backups, please dispose of the following items properly, not by dumping in a drain or flushing down the toilet:



- Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Rags or shop towels
- Garage waste products such as oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze
- Household waste such as ashes, grease, corrosives, glass, metals, paint, poisons, or solvents
- Yard waste such as sand, soil, or mud

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) is also a potential cause of sewer backups. I&I refers to clear water getting into the sanitary sewer system. This might occur through cracks or leaks in sewer pipes and manholes or from sump pumps incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. Particularly during large rain events, I&I can cause the sanitary sewer system to overflow resulting in sewer backups.

Because of the potential for I&I to create system issues, City ordinance prohibits property owners from disposing of clear water into the sanitary sewer system. This includes water from any roof, surface or ground sump pump, foundation drain, or swimming pool

Sanitary sewer problems should be reported to the City of Mayer's Public Works Department. The City will work with you to identify the cause of the problem. If there is a blockage in one of the City's main sewer lines, the City will attempt to clear the blockage.

The sewer line from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is your responsibility. **That means that you as the property owner are responsible for clearing any blockages.** Property owners must schedule service and pay the cost of clearing any blockage located in the individual sewer line on their property.

If you have questions regarding the City's sanitary sewer maintenance program, sewer backup response or a specific incident, please contact the Public Works Department at (952) 657-1502 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Outside regular business hours, emergencies can be reported to the City by calling (952)- 465-9805.



Snow Removal

The following is the City Code on parking restrictions from November until April when a one inch snow fall occurs.

Chapter 70

71.06 PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVALS.

(A) During the months of November to April of each year commencing and ending on the first day of November and April, no motor vehicle shall be parked on either side of any street or alley within the city limits following a snowfall of one inch or more, or to otherwise interfere with snow removal operations following the accumulation of one inch of snow or more, until the completion of

snow removal operations after which time parking can again be resumed upon these streets which have been cleaned of snow.

(B) No person shall park a vehicle or permit it to stand whether attended or unattended, upon any street or public highway within the city within 25 feet from the intersection of the curb lines or if none, within 15 feet of the intersection of the property lines at any intersection of streets or highways.

Vehicles in violation of this ordinance will be ticketed and towed.

Snowmobiling in the Parks

The Mayer City Council passed a snowmobiling ordinance in September. This ordinance

DOES NOT ALLOW SNOWMOBLING IN CITY PARKS.

Please stay on the designated trail through the City and do not snowmobile in the City Parks. Carver County Sheriff will be patrolling and violators can be ticketed.



Our vision for Active Living in Carver County is that all residents, no matter age or ability, will have access to opportunities to engage in daily physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Go active and experience a healthier life! Use GoCarverGo to connect to trails, walking and biking routes, parks, and other physical activity events throughout Carver County.

Check out the [GocarverGo Website](http://www.gocarvergo.org/index.php):
<http://www.gocarvergo.org/index.php>

Skating Rink

Again this year, Mayer public works staff has flooded an area in West Ridge Park to be used for ice skating. There is not a warming house so dress warm and enjoy the ice.



Dog Licenses

It's that time of year again to license your dogs. Enclosed in this newsletter is the application for the license. You must provide the City with a copy of updated vaccinations for the animals, the enclosed form and the license fee.



Shady Sales of Treatment Equipment Continue: MDH Responds to False Claims; Utilities Encouraged to Alert

The Summer 2010 *Waterline* contained an article about water utilities in the region fighting back against shady sales tactics used to sell water treatment equipment to homeowners. Chaska water superintendent Dean Hylland got a call from a resident about a company that tested her water and said it wasn't safe, while implying that the company was working with the city. Hylland turned the matter over to the police department, which contacted the company with a warning about its operations. The police also contacted FOX 9 News, which placed a report on its web site that Chaska police and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension "are warning residents of an alleged scam to sell expensive water filters using scare tactics."

St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) addressed the issue in its Consumer Confidence Reports, including this text: "This past year, we received many calls from concerned customers approached by companies attempting to sell them water-related products, such as softeners and filters. These sales companies offer a free test of city water. Many of our customers believe these sales people are from SPRWS. Saint Paul Regional Water Services is not affiliated with any private business soliciting customers or offering any products or services for sale. According to descriptions from our customers, these companies claim that some substances exceed allowable limits for drinking water. These claims are false. If our water exceeds the EPA or MDH standards for drinking water, we are required by law to inform the public."

Recently the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) received a complaint stating that a representative of a company selling water treatment equipment contacted a resident in Washington County, claiming that he was operating under an MDH grant to provide free water testing in people's homes as part of a research project. The resident agreed to allow the testing. The representative performed a few simple tests and then inaccurately claimed that the total dissolved solids concentration exceeded federal drinking standards and likely indicated the presence of harmful contaminants such as atrazine and arsenic. The homeowner was told that the water posed "significant health risks" but that he could protect himself by purchasing expensive treatment equipment at a reduced price since the company could apply some of the alleged MDH grant money toward the cost of the equipment.

The homeowner contacted the Minnesota Department of Health, which has not issued grants for this type of testing nor for the installation of private water treatment systems. The homeowner acquired some evidence of the company's fraudulent claims; this information has been turned over to local and state authorities for consideration of further legal action. MDH also issued a press release, which generated publicity about the scams, in October 2010.

Utilities hearing of such tactics and false claims taking place in their area may want to contact local law enforcement and local media in addition to warning their customers. Utilities may also want to encourage residents considering the purchase of a home water treatment system to:

Contact their local water system for more information regarding their water quality. Residents with private wells may contact their county public health agency, the Minnesota Department of Health, or Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding water quality in their area.

- Compare water treatment systems and prices.
- Work with a reputable company. If contacted by a company that says it is working with the city or state, ask for a contact person at that agency.
- Make sure the device is certified to achieve the results being claimed.
- Verify that the installation is done by a licensed plumber.

Those who believe they have been provided false or misleading information or that they have been subjected to unfair or high-pressure tactics in the course of a sales visit, should be encouraged to contact the [Minnesota Attorney General's office Consumer Complaints Division](#) at 651-296-3353 or 800-657-3787.



**CURB SIDE
SPRING CLEAN UP**

New Recycling Site to Open

A new service for Mayer residents will be opening in the spring. Residents will be able to recycle metal, newspapers, glass and oil. The site will be located next to the current compost site on County Road 30. Watch future newsletters for the opening of the Recycling Center.



Start thinking Spring! Again, this year the City of Mayer in cooperation with Waste Management will be offering a curbside spring clean up. The date for the clean is set for Saturday, April 30, 2011. Have any items that you want to dispose of at the curb. This does not include tires, appliances or electronics. More information in the next newsletter or the City of Mayer website.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb on Saturday, January 15th. Have your tree out to the curb on Friday. Also, you can drop them off at the compost site on County Road 30.



Holiday Closings

City offices are closed on Monday, January 17 for the Martin Luther King Holiday and on Monday, February 21 for Presidents Day.



Shovel Your Fire Hydrant

If your fire hydrant is covered by snow please take a few minutes and uncover it.



Board & Commission Openings

The City has opening on it's Senior Commission and on it's Economic Development Authority. The EDA meets on the third Tuesday of the month and the Senior commission meets on an as needed basis on the Second Monday of the month at 2PM.