

# Medina Message

A Quarterly Newsletter of the City of Medina


www.ci.medina.mn.us

Winter 2006

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www.ci.medina.mn.us

**City Hall Office Hours**  
Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Telephone Numbers**  
City Hall .....763-473-4643  
Fax .....763-473-9359  
Police emergency .....911  
non-emergency .... 763-473-9209

**Official Newspaper**  
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**City Administrator**  
Chad M. Adams....763-473-4643  
e-mail:  
chad.adams@ci.medina.mn.us

**City Council Meetings**  
First & third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
Tom Crosby, Chair  
Doug Dickerson  
Marilyn Fortin  
Steve Jacobson  
Sharon Johnson  
Jeff Pederson  
Mary A. Verbick

**Planning Commission Meetings**  
Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Park Commission**  
Randy Hughes, Chair  
Galen Bruer  
Gerald Dykoff  
Tom Gregor  
Madeleine Linck  
Robin Reid  
Ann Thies

**Park Commission Meetings**  
Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Printed on 20% post-consumer recycled fiber content paper

## Moratorium on Rural Residential Subdivisions

The moratorium committee established in October 2005 to review subdivision of land within the rural residential zoning districts has produced a report including recommendations for changes within the district. The recommendations will be considered before the Planning Commission on March 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. The recommendations will also be reviewed at subsequent City Council meetings in March and/or early April.

The deadline for the moratorium is April 24th. Therefore, any proposed revisions to ordinances need to be adopted and published prior to that date. The committee is recommending to increase the minimum lot width to 300 feet from the present 110 feet; and, to adopt a uniform lot setback of 50 feet from all lot lines. Present setbacks are 50 feet from the front, 40 feet from the rear, and 20 feet from side lot lines.

The committee consists of Tom Crosby (Planning Commission), Elizabeth Weir (City Council), Robin Reid (Parks Commission), David Wessin (Resident at large), and Charles Nolan (Resident at large). Planner Rose Lorusung, Public Works Director Jim Dillman, and City Attorney Ron Batty have also provided staff analysis and support at the public meetings.

More information pertaining to the committee's report and recommendations can be viewed at City Hall by contacting Planner Lorusung or by downloading the report on the City's website at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us)

## 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

The City Council has directed staff to begin the process of updating the City's 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for future development of Medina. The Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework will be utilized in the planning process.

A community survey, to be distributed to all Medina residents and businesses, will be one of the first steps in collecting community input on land use, development, and growth desires. The survey will also request feedback on general City public services and other issues.

Cities such as Medina are required to submit proposed Comprehensive Plans to the Metropolitan Council for review by September 2008. Upon Metropolitan Council review, Medina will need to make final changes to the plan by December 31, 2008.

However, because Medina is beginning the process in spring 2006, the City Council desires that a plan will be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by February 2008, about seven months ahead of the requirement.

A series of Open House meetings will be held later this spring, summer, and fall to encourage community input on the City's future plans. Staff and consultants are already beginning the process of preparing information and data for the Open Houses. Specific dates and times of the Open Houses will be included in the spring *Medina Message* newsletter, city website, and via area mailings.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

- ▶ **2nd** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **6th** Mon—City Council 7:00 pm (note change from Tues. Mar. 7th)
- ▶ **14th** Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **15th** Wed—Park Commission meeting
- ▶ **16th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **21st** Tues—City Council 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **30th** Thurs—Recycling Day

- ▶ **4th** Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **5th** Wed—Local Board of Appeal & Equalization 6:30 pm
- ▶ **11th** Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **13th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **18th** Tues—City Council 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **19th** Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **27th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **29th** Sat—City Cleanup Day 8:00 am—2:00 pm

- ▶ **2nd** Tue—City Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- ▶ **9th** Tue—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **11th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **16th** Tue—City Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- ▶ **17th** Wed—Park Commission Meeting 7:00 pm
- ▶ **25th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **29th** Mon—City Hall Closed (Holiday)

- ▶ All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise noted.
- ▶ Meeting agendas on web site when available.

## Public Works Director Jim Dillman Announces Retirement

Public Works Director Jim Dillman recently announced his retirement to the Medina City Council. Dillman's last day as Public Works Director will be Saturday, April 29th, which happens to be Medina's Clean-up Day, an event Dillman helped create and takes a great deal of pride in.

Dillman began his career with the City of Medina in August 1978, thus leaving the City with over 27 years of valued experience. As Public Works Director, Dillman oversees the water, wastewater, parks and road/streets operations of the City.

Those desiring to show their appreciation of Dillman's service to the community may do so by stopping by the Clean-up Day on April 29th, from 8 am—2 pm.



March

April

May

# Planning, Building & Zoning

## Residential Building Plans May Be Picked Up

The City presently maintains copies of building plans for residential building permits that have been issued. By law the City must keep these plans for one year. However, the City of Medina keeps the plans for three years.

If you have submitted plans for a new home, addition or remodel between the years of 1997 and 2003 you may come to City Hall and pick-up between March 10—March 24. After March 24th the plans will be destroyed.

Copies of the plans will only be given to the current property owner of the address for the plans. The City will not mail the plans. All plans must be picked up in person. Contact Janet at 763-473-4643 with any questions or further assistance.

## Maps, Permit Forms, Project Updates Available on Web

The Planning Department has recently created a new page on the City's website at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us) including updated maps, permit forms, land use applications, checklists for developers, as well as general information related to various planning project progress and initiatives. Click under "Departments and Staff" on the Home page, then "Planning & Zoning" to link to the new planning information.

## Open Space Planning To Continue This Spring

The Medina Park Commission has been meeting the past several months to review existing data, maps, and sites within a conceptual Greenway Corridor in Medina. The Commission is recommending the creation of an Open Space Task Force, consisting of Park Commission, Planning Commission, City Council and citizen representation.

The Task Force will work over the next few years by working with a consultant to conduct Open Houses, discuss ordinances or conservation easements, make recommendations on development practices, and author an Open Space plan to be incorporated into Medina's 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Residents interested to serve on the task force should make application by March 29, 2006 by contacting Planner Rose Lorsung. The City Council will appoint members to the Task Force on April 4, 2006.

## Planning Department Land Use Review Update

The following is a list of recent planning action items taken by the Planning Commission and City Council:

- ▶ **West Ridge Development, 2nd Addition**—The City Council approved the final plat approval, PUD final plan, Conditional Use Permit (CUP) rescinding, development agreement, and zoning ordinance amendment on February 21, 2006. The project is located at CSAH 101/Clydesdale Trail intersection (formerly 5065 Co. Rd. 101) and includes approx. 10,800 sq. ft. of retail space.
- ▶ **Park Commons**—The City Council approved the site plan approval with variances, amendment to CUP for continued use of a drive-thru, and development agreement on February 21, 2006. The project involves an estimated 6,600 sq. ft. retail center.
- ▶ **2845 Ardmore Avenue**—The City Council authorized preparation of resolutions for preliminary plat approval on February 21, 2006. Resolutions for approval will be heard by the Council on March 6, 2006. The Planning Commission recommended approval on February 14, 2006.
- ▶ **Uptown Hamel Transportation Plan**—The City Council approved a Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment for Uptown Hamel Transportation design on November 15, 2005. The amendment designates future road/accesses for the Uptown Hamel area.
- ▶ **Rural Commercial Holding District**—The City Council approved a Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment for the RCH district in the NW area of Medina on November 15, 2005. The text amendment redefines the development timeline in relationship to sanitary sewer availability to the area.
- ▶ **4612 Balsam St.**—The applicant withdrew the request for final plat.
- ▶ **2275 Cox Trail (Mann Addition)**—The City Council approved a final plat and variances on January 17, 2006. The Planning Commission also recommended approval.
- ▶ **Leawood Farms, 2nd Addition**—The City Council approved a request for a lot line arrangement (preliminary/final plat) in the recently created Leawood Farms subdivision on Hamel Road on January 17, 2006.
- ▶ **Adam's Pest Control (TH 55, west of Co. Rd. 116)**—The Planning Commission tabled a request for lot combination, CUP, and site plan review on February 14, 2006. The Commission will review the plan again, no earlier than March 14, 2006.

### Other Upcoming Application Review or Items:

- ▶ **LORAM Maintenance of Way**—The City Council reviewed a concept plan from LORAM for warehouse and office facility expansion on February 21, 2006. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan on February 14, 2006.
- ▶ **Promenade at Medina**—The City Council reviewed a concept plan from Brakins Homes for a mixed used development, including 330 residential units just west of Uptown Hamel on Hamel Road on February 21, 2006. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan on February 14, 2006.
- ▶ **Sign Ordinance**—The Planning Commission is currently considering revisions to the City's sign ordinance.
- ▶ **Wetland Ordinance**—The Planning Commission is currently considering the creation of a new Wetland ordinance.
- ▶ **Grading Ordinance**—The Planning Commission recommended approval of a grading ordinance to the City Council on February 14, 2006.

Please contact City Hall at 763.473.4643, or via e-mail at [rose.lorsung@ci.medina.mn.us](mailto:rose.lorsung@ci.medina.mn.us) for more information.

# General Information

## City Hall Renovation

The majority of renovations to City Hall are now complete. There are a few items remaining that will be completed this spring, including exterior lighting, new front entry doors, and improved landscaping. The parking lot will also be crack-sealed and seal coated this summer.

Other improvements to the building were focused primarily on re-facilitating workspace to accommodate additional staff and storage needs. The City Council chambers also received an audio/video system as well as various aesthetic upgrades.

The project expense for the renovation is currently about \$250,000, which includes building improvements as well as new equipment/furnishing purchases.

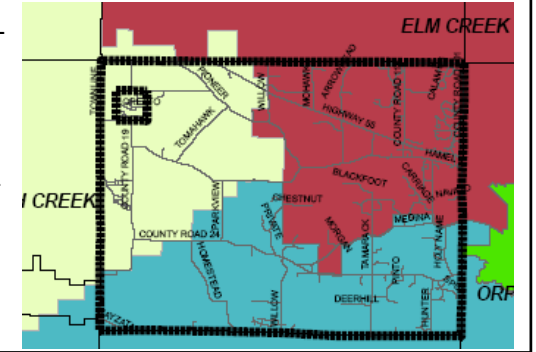
## City Seeks Volunteer to Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission

The City is seeking a volunteer, who resides within the City and Elm Creek Watershed (see map below) to serve on the Management Commission. The Commission meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Maple Grove City Complex at 11:30 a.m.

The Commission consists of eight board members, established through a joint powers agreement, from the cities of Champlin, Dayton, Maple Grove, Corcoran, Hassan, Plymouth, and Rogers.

Responsibilities of the Commission involve reviewing development plans in the respective communities and updating the watershed's management plan.

Interested volunteers may contact City Administrator Chad Adams at City Hall.



## Meeting and Event Rental Space Available at Hamel Community Building

The Community Building has an assembly hall available for a variety of private functions, with seating available up to 120 persons at tables, and 150 persons for speaking events.

The facility recently celebrated its first year of operations and has held a variety of reservations including: community events, neighborhood meetings, wedding receptions, funeral receptions, family reunions, civic club meetings, drivers training and other educational functions.

To find out more on reserving the facility for your an event, please reference the City's website to view a brochure. Brochures are also available outside the Community Building at 3200 Mill Drive (just behind the Uptown Hamel businesses in Hamel Legion Park).

Rental of the assembly hall includes use of a service area (refrigerator, freezer, microwave, coffee machine, food preparation space), restrooms, as well as the outdoor patio.

For Medina residents/businesses, some current rental rates include:

- ▶ \$250 for an all day Saturday or Sunday function, security deposit not included
- ▶ \$60 for a Saturday or Sunday event under four hours, security deposit not included
- ▶ \$60 for an all day function, Monday—Friday, security deposit not included (and only \$30 if under four hours)

## Read about Medina in the South Crow River News

The South Crow River News regularly carries stories about the Medina area - ranging from city government and city council to human-interest features to community events. The newspaper is recognized as the City's official legal newspaper.

That's not all. Readers are invited to sound off about issues they care about through letters to the editor. And area merchants regularly advertise their services, merchandise and special deals.

Published by Minnesota Sun Press Newspapers, the South Crow River News is available at selected newsstands in the Medina area and by subscription. Individual copies cost \$1. On May 1, the cost of a year's subscription will increase from \$32 to \$34. At the current subscription price, each copy costs only \$.61.

The newspaper can be purchased at the Holiday Station-store, 200 Hwy. 55, Medina and Mayer's Mobile, 762 Hwy. 55, Medina, as well as Lil Jax Korner stores at 4355 Hwy. 55, Medina; 9350 County Rd. 19, Corcoran and 7625 County Rd. 116, Hamel.

To subscribe to South Crow River News, write the newspaper at Post Office Box 280, Osseo, MN 55369. With your check please enclose your name, address with state and zip code and phone number. If you wish to use a Visa or Master Card, include the name of the cardholder, card number, expiration date and amount. For more information, call the newspaper's circulation department at 424-7370.

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# General Information

## Horse Owner Educational Programs Offered

The University of Minnesota has three horse owner education programs remaining throughout Minnesota in 2006. Each program offers unbiased, researched based information and knowledgeable speakers identified specifically for that region by a committee of local horse experts and enthusiasts. National Animal Identification System and impacts on equine markets and owners will be discussed at each program. Speakers for these programs include University of Minnesota faculty and staff as well as local veterinarians and horse professionals. Programs are held on Saturdays and begin at 10:00 am (registration at 9:30 am) and end at 3:00 pm. The programs are for educational purposes only and no vendors will be present. The dates, locations and topics are as follows:

- ▶ **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006.** St. Paul Campus – U of M School of Veterinarian Medicine. Topics include: wound management, 1<sup>st</sup> aid and bandaging, nutrition, hay 101, specialty care, and demonstrations and tours of neonatal and colic intensive care units, surgery, diagnostic imaging and high speed treadmill. Online registration available (this location only) at: [www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach](http://www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach)
- ▶ **March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006.** Norwood, MN. Norwood Young-America High School. Topics include: hay 101, preparing for foaling, lameness, first aid, pasture management, poisonous plants, trail riding, and trailer safety.
- ▶ **March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006.** Fergus Falls, MN. Red Horse Ranch Arena. Topics include: nutrition, diseases to watch, recreational trail riding, vaccinations and de-worming, pasture management, supplements, hay, hoof care, tack fitting, pre-purchase exams, horsemanship demonstration, chiropractic and dentistry.

Pre-registration is required for all programs. The cost to attend each program is \$25.00 per person which includes lunch and printed materials. For more information on these programs, please visit [www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse) or contact Kristi at 888-241-0719 or [marti987@umn.edu](mailto:marti987@umn.edu) to register or if you have additional questions.

## Master Planning of City Facilities

The City of Medina will be engaging in a master planning effort this spring to determine the needs for future public facilities, including City Hall, Public Safety, and Public Works. As the City continues to grow, larger facilities will be needed to accommodate staff resources, as well as equipment and infrastructure materials.

The City is currently reviewing options to solicit consultant(s) for this process and will formalize the search process sometime after March 31. Once a consultant is hired later this spring/summer, various open houses and needs analysis will be conducted in order to prepare a formal report/plan.

Several variables will be considered in the master planning effort, including locations of facilities, funding mechanisms, community growth, desired level of services, etc.



## Crime Alert: Mail Theft

The Medina Police Department has taken several reports of mail theft from the area. Suspects come through neighborhoods looking for mailboxes with their flags up. The suspects take the mail out of private mailboxes, go through the mail, and take personal checks. The checks are then washed with a chemical that erases the pen ink, and re-issued to a fictitious person with a fake identification card to cash the checks.

Medina Police have developed several leads and advise residents to drop off bills at your local post office or in a locked mail drop, rather than mailing checks in your private mailboxes.

Please contact 911 if you see anyone tampering with your mailbox. You may also contact the Medina Police Department if you see any suspicious activity, or if you have questions at (763) 473-9209.



## Requests for High Speed Internet

City Hall has been receiving inquiries from residents who desire to learn more about high speed internet options. One of the common questions staff receives involves high speed internet at affordable rates.

Several internet service providers known to provide services to varied areas of the community include Qwest, Mediacom and Stonebridge Wireless.

Some area communities, such as Chaska, Buffalo, Minneapolis and St. Louis Park having taken the initiative to provide municipal wireless internet services to their communities at varied rates. Medina, as part of the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission, is reviewing such options for an area covering approximately 18 communities in the Lake Minnetonka area.

Please contact City Administrator Chad Adams at [chad.adams@ci.medina.mn.us](mailto:chad.adams@ci.medina.mn.us) to place your name on file or as part of an e-mail distribution list to learn more about future discussions that the LMCC or City continue to hold.

## Hazardous Waste Collection

**Thursday—Saturday, May 4-6, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. each day**  
**Independence City Hall Parking Lot**  
**1920 CR 90, Independence**

For information on what is acceptable, please visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) and enter search under Spring HHW events or call 612-348-3777, press 3



# Public Works & Parks

## Lakeshore Park Receives New Play Structure, Patio and Sidewalk Project Includes Donated Materials from Local Resident and Area Businesses

A new play structure, patio, and sidewalk were added this past fall to Lakeshore Park, located in the Independence Beach area on Lake Independence. The improvements were made as part of recommendations by the Medina Park Commission and approval by the City Council in 2005.

Park dedication fees were used to fund the play structure, but a stamped patio and sidewalk were made possible by donated materials by Brock White Co., and neighborhood resident Brad Kvanbek. Cowboy Concrete and Kvanbek also donated labor to the project. Total value of the donated project was \$5,400.

Brock White Co. is located in St. Paul, while Cowboy Concrete is located in Plymouth. Kvanbek is a former Park Commission member. The City thanks the companies and Kvanbek for their generous gift to the park and community.



## New Shelter on City Hall Grounds



Local Boy Scout member Peter Olson donated time for design, construction, and coordination of a new picnic shelter on the City Hall Grounds, as part of an Eagle Scout project. Materials for the project were supported through City Park Dedication Funds.

## Water Treatment Plant Facility Progresses

Progress continues on the City's water treatment plant facility, which is located on Pinto Drive, visible from Highway 55 at the 116 intersection. Construction of the project is on schedule for completion later this summer.

The City is required to have the facility operational by December 31, 2006 as mandated by the EPA because the City's water supply has high levels of radium and gross alpha. Iron and manganese will also be removed as part of the project.



## Latest and Greatest in Erosion and Sediment Control: Garden-Variety Compost

Good erosion control requires the presence of established vegetation to stabilize soils. At construction sites, this requirement poses particular problems; removal of topsoil and construction traffic can mean that first, second, and even third attempts to replant sites fail, increasing costs and delaying completion. In the meantime, sediment is washed downstream, increasing nutrients and degrading water and habitat in nearby lakes and streams.

Enter the latest application in erosion and sediment control. It saves time and money. It promotes healthy vegetation. It is easy to operate. More features: no haul-off costs, easy to repair, stands up to driving, can be installed in winter, improves soil quality, and is more effective than silt fence. Best of all, you can begin using this new technology today! When used to stabilize construction sites, compost decreases erosion, removes pollutants, and encourages quick establishment of vegetation.

**Cost Savings.** According to Dwayne Stenlund of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) Erosion Control Engineering Unit, costs for compost as erosion control are comparable to conventional practices. "Compost berms cost about the same as silt fence. And for the seed bed preparation and turf establishment process, the cost of compost is similar to traditional methods, but it gives the best value because the failure rate for establishment is much lower."

**Runoff Management.** When compost is used at a site, its soil becomes more porous. Porous soils hold more water, so less water runs off site during storm flows. Reduced storm water runoff means less erosion and subsequent sediment loads in receiving waters. Porous soils also resist compaction and allow water to infiltrate, cleaning the water.

**Additional Information.** This article was provided courtesy of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, *WaterPro*, Summer 2005 Issue. More information related to this article may be found at [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org)