


# MEDINA NEWS



A Publication of the City of Medina

Spring 2001

## City Council Approves New Commercial/Industrial Ordinances & Rezoning

At their March 20, 2001 meeting, the City Council approved rezoning most of the commercial/industrial land along TH 55. This property was rezoned to Business Park, Industrial Park and Urban Commercial. A few properties along the north side of Pioneer Trail were not included in the approved rezoning. These properties will remain in the moratorium until they can be addressed as a part of an upcoming rezoning to Rural Residential. The moratorium on most rezoned properties will expire on April 4, 2001.

These rezoning was the final step in a many-year process that included updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and creating several new ordinances. These ordinances relate to the three new districts Business Park, Industrial Park and Urban Commercial, and were developed by the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC), Planning Commission, and City Council who had been working with City staff and Bill Thibault, a planning consultant, over the past year.

The Uptown Hamel (UH) ordinance is still at the committee level and should be in front of the Council sometime in May. For more information, see page 5. The City's residential ordinances are also scheduled to be updated as well. The primary issue will be creating a buffer area between residential and commercial properties.

## CABIN SOCIAL SET FOR JUNE 14, 2001

Come out and spend a fun evening with your Medina neighbors at the 2001 Cabin Social. The Cabin Social will be on Thursday, June 14th at City Hall from 6:30 p.m. to dusk. This event will feature a return performance by The Brooklyn Community Band. The evening will conclude with a fireworks show. Ice cream, popcorn, and bottled water will be provided, but feel free to bring a picnic basket for you and your family. There will be picnic tables and space on the lawn for a picnic.

The West Hennepin Pioneers Museum will feature displays about early farming practices in the area. They will also lead some historical games that were once popular in western Hennepin County. The name "Cabin Social" is in honor of the Wolsfeld cabin that sits on City Hall grounds.

In case of rain, the Cabin Social will be held in the Public Works building. For more information, call Jim Dillman, Public Works Director, at 763-473-4643.

## Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 28

The City is planning its annual city-wide clean-up day for Saturday, April 28. This event will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until 2:00 p.m.. Residents will soon be receiving more detailed information in the mail. If you would like to help with the event, please call Sandie Larson at 763-473-4643.

## Board Of Review Meeting April 11, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. City Hall

The Medina City Council will address objections to the property class and/or the market value as of January 2, 2001. The Board does not determine taxes and may not entertain such objections. By State law, the Board's powers are limited to correcting the property class and/or the market value for this year only.

The property owner is responsible for presenting evidence to the Board as to why the property class and/or the market value determined by the assessor is not fair and equitable. The Board has the authority to decrease, sustain, or increase the market value of property.

Subsequent appeal procedures include the County Board of Equalization and the Minnesota Tax Court. Refer to the reverse side of your valuation notice for additional information regarding these appeal methods. If you have any questions regarding the Board of Review process, please call Rolf Erickson, City Assessor, at 952-473-1844.

# Public Works News

## BROCKTON LANE SURFACING PROJECT

After several requests by area residents, Brockton Lane will finally be paved between Medina Road and Hamel Road. The project was approved by City Council Meeting at their February 6, 2001 meeting. In recent years, the roadway has been prone to ruts and blowing dust.

Construction will begin sometime after July 4. During construction time, you should take other routes, such as Hunter Drive to the west or County Road 101 to the east through Plymouth.

The roadway will be twenty-four feet wide with four foot shoulders on each side. There are no plans to include a pedestrian/bike trail, but Plymouth has expressed interest in placing a trail on its side of the road in the future.

Once the road is paved, please be aware of your speed as you drive on Brockton Lane. The Police Department will ticket drivers speeding on the smooth roadway.



Brockton Lane is one of the last roads to be paved under Medina's paving program that started in 1984. The cost of roads paved in the program are split between the City and adjacent property owners.

## Willow Drive Traffic Signal

One Medina intersection may soon become a lot safer. The intersection of TH 55 and Willow Drive in northwest Medina has been the site of several accidents. The Minnesota Department of Transportation recently approved a signal justification report, meaning that the State agrees that a traffic signal would be beneficial at this intersection.

Because the State has control of this intersection, many criteria must be met in this project. One of the requirements is closing direct property access in the vicinity of Willow Drive. These accesses would be redirected onto Chippewa Road for all properties on the north side of TH 55. A separate, but related project, is the paving of Chippewa Road. An assessment hearing for this project will also occur sometime this summer.

MnDOT is providing \$500,000 and the city is contributing \$436,000. The rest of the cost will be assessed to nearby benefiting property owners. An assessment hearing will be scheduled in May or June. In the mean time, the Council will be working out the details of this assessment.

## WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS POSTED

Effective March 26, 2001, the City has posted most of its roads to four ton axle weight limits. This was done to prevent road damage due to heavy trucks driving over roads with a soft sub-base.

The weight limit posting can create an inconvenience to residents, but it is one of the most cost-effective measures the City can take to prevent road damage.

The postings will remain in effect until all roads can sustain heavy trucks without damage. This year, restrictions will end around May 15. The City makes very few exceptions to the postings and the Police Department actively enforces these regulations.

## CITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

2001 is the fourth year that the City will be working with property owners to plant trees. The program is a cost share for the purchase of trees and a commitment by the property owner to plant and care for the trees. To date, about 1,000 trees have been planted through this program.



There are a limited number of openings for this program. If you are interested, call Jim Dillman, at 763-473-4643.

## COMPOSTING AVAILABLE

The Public Works Department offers a composting facility at the shop building located northwest of City Hall. Leaves, grass clippings, and brush are all welcome. Please follow the posted signs for the appropriate location. Remember no bags or containers are to be left on the site.

## RAILROAD CROSSING LIGHTS AND ARM TO BE INSTALLED

This spring, railroad crossing warning lights and stop arms will be installed in two locations. One will be on Willow Drive, just south of Highway 55, the other will be south of Highway 55 on Town Line Road.

The warning lights and stop arms will stop road users when trains are coming. Increased car and truck traffic on these two roads warrant extra safety precaution.

The Canadian Pacific Railway carries between 22 and 24 trains a day through Medina.





# Police Department News

## Volunteer Police Reserve Program

The Medina Police Department Reserves donated over 2,000 man-hours of community service during 2000. The Reserves added four new Officers last year. "We have a solid core group of Reserves now to support the growth of our program this year," said Officer Chris McGill, coordinator of the reserve program.

The purpose of the Reserve Program is to have trained volunteers available to support the Patrol Officers in fulfilling their goal of serving the citizens of Medina. Duties include assisting Officers at traffic accidents and during arrests. They also help with crowd control at special events and other community oriented policing projects.

Police Chief Ed Belland adds, "Our Reserve Program saves the City money and provides added safety to the citizens of Medina."

### How Can You Become a Reserve Officer?

**Requirements:** You must be at least 19 years of age, with a high school diploma or equivalent, possess a valid drivers license, have a clear criminal background, and be capable of effectively communicating both verbally and in writing. If you meet the above qualifications and are interested in the law enforcement field, please contact the Medina Police Department at 763-473-9209 for an application or pick one up in person, by mail at 2052 County Road 24, Medina, MN 55340, or on the City's website at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us).

## It Is Spring: The Dogs Are Out

Every spring, as the weather gets warmer, the number of complaints about dogs running at large increase. The City of Medina ordinance does not require a City license for your dog. However, the City does require a collar with a metal identification tag and a rabies tag.

The Medina Police Department responds to dog-at-large calls (meaning that the dog is not on the owner's property, leashed, or under voice command). If the dog is wearing identification tags, we will return it to the owner. If the dog has no tags on or is a habitual offender of running at large, the dog will be picked up and impounded.

We understand that sometimes your dog gets loose. Please make it easy for us to assist you in retrieving your dog by having identification on it. To report a lost dog, call our office at 763-473-9209 so we can be on the lookout for it. Our pets become part of our families, please help protect them.

## SAFE & SOBER

The Medina Police Department is continuing with the Safe and Sober Program this year. Over the last five months, our Officers, along with 33 other departments in the State of Minnesota, have actively enforced the traffic laws in an effort to reduce the number of accidents on Minnesota roads. Seatbelt usage is a top priority in our effort to reduce the number of injuries and deaths. We encourage everyone to buckle up. Consider these facts:

- ◆ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading causes of death and disability among children under the age of 18.
- ◆ Of the 23 children under age 15 killed in Minnesota in 1999,
  - 33% of children ages 0-4 were unrestrained,
  - 50% of children ages 5-9 were unrestrained,
  - 67% of children ages 10-14 were unrestrained.

Now, here is what all adult drivers carrying around these small packages can do:

- ◆ Remember that Minnesota law requires that all children under the age of four years be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat and children under the age of 11 use a safety belt, regardless of seating position.
- ◆ Persons of all ages must wear seatbelts whenever in the front portion of the vehicle.

For children, please, follow these four points:

1. Use rear-facing child seats for children from birth to at least 20 pounds and at least one year of age.
2. Use forward-facing child seats for children over 20 pounds and at least one year old to about 40 pounds and age four.
3. Use belt-positioning booster seats for children from about 40 pounds to about 80 pounds and up to 4 feet 9 inches in height.
4. Use seatbelts for older children large enough for the belt to fit correctly: at least 4 feet 9 inches tall and about 80 pounds.

Taking a few extra moments to follow these guidelines will better your child's chance of surviving a crash, if it should occur.

**Buckle Up. Be Safe.**



# Planning and Zoning News

## New Lighting Ordinance Proposed

As a part of implementing the Comprehensive Plan, a number of issues are being considered. One such issue is the desire to keep Medina rural. One of the side effects of more development, especially commercial development, is light pollution. Because of this reason, the Council and Planning Commission are working to create a lighting ordinance regulating the type and amount of light cast off of any property in Medina. The creation of a lighting ordinance is being done to protect the rural character of Medina and to limit the impact of commercial development within the City.

The lighting ordinance would apply to all land uses, including residential. The ordinance proposes certain times that a business may keep its lights on. Existing structures would be able to keep their existing lighting. However, when a building is being remodeled or added on to, lighting will need to be upgraded to the new standards.

The Planning Commission will discuss the proposed ordinance at its next two meetings before passing it on to the City Council. These Commission meetings are April 10 and May 8, 2001 at City Hall.

Consultant Pat Hunt, a registered lighting designer and lighting expert, assisted City staff in drafting the ordinance. Since this ordinance will become a part of the zoning code the Planning Commission will be required to hold a public hearing. This will probably occur in May. As soon as the draft is approved by the Council, it will be published on the City's website at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us).

## RECYCLING REMINDERS

Medina recycling pick-up occurs every other Thursday. Please have your recyclables out by 7:00 a.m. so that they can be collected. If you would like **free stickers** for your calendar in order to help you remember, stop by City Hall and pick up some. If you would like an extra bin the City is now selling additional recycling bins for only \$3.00.

If you missed a pickup, please call EZ Recycling at 651-644-6577 or Ameilia Kroger, our recycling coordinator, at 952-476-0012 in order to make arrangements.

For a calendar of recycling dates, see page 6 or check out the City's web site at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us).

**New!** Wheel kits are now available to help you haul your recycling bin. Cost is \$5.00 per set and they are available at City Hall.

Remember that the City bills its residents for the service. Any questions regarding billing should be directed towards the City and not EZ Recycling. Call Laura Sulander, Deputy Clerk, with your questions at 763-473-4643.



## PERMIT ACTIVITY

### 2000

Forty-three new single-family building permits were issued last year totaling \$17,519,300, an average of \$407,425. There were 176 miscellaneous residential permits in 2000 totaling \$4,410,300. These miscellaneous permits include remodeling, additions, new garages, and finishing basements. There were no new commercial permits due to the moratorium in commercial areas.

### 2001

So far this year, there were four new single-family home permits and fifteen miscellaneous permits issued. Because of the moratorium, permit activity has been limited. However, after April 3, when a large area of the moratorium expires, activity is expected to increase.



## GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

Are you planning on putting on a deck or planting some trees? Before you dig, make sure you are not going to dig into a utility line! Gopher State One Call is a service that locates electric, cable, gas, water, and sewer lines. This service is free to you.

Please call them at 651-454-0002 at least two business days before you plan to dig. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When you call, provide you name, address, nearest intersection, phone number, dig location, type of work you are doing, and the date and time of your dig.

Failing to call is against the law. Please be safe. More information is available at [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org).



# Planning and Zoning News

## UPTOWN HAMEL ZONING ORDINANCE

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) has been working since January on the zoning ordinance for the Hamel area. As the meetings progressed, the committee decided on a planned unit development (PUD) approach to the area. The PUD offers property owners greater flexibility in the use and development of their lands and buildings. Such things as mixed uses are easily accomplished through this approach. An example of mixed use would be a building with a store on the first level and an apartment on the second level.

The Uptown Hamel PUD also deals with things that traditional zoning ordinances do not, such as, street lighting and sidewalks. The PUD tries to look at the area as a whole and not individual pieces of property.

The purpose of the Uptown Hamel PUD is “to create a distinct district that preserves Uptown Hamel’s identity as an old-town center by using building facades, porches, walkways, landscaped plazas, lighting, signage, landscaping, and parking to blend retail, office, housing, specialty shops, and gathering spots into a unified community.”

Bill Thibault, Medina’s planning consultant, has been working with the Committee in order to develop this ordinance. The Committee is made of some Planning Commissioners, City Council members, and the Mayor. Committee meetings are open to the public and offer a public comment period, the final of which is Wednesday, April 4, 2001 at City Hall. The draft PUD ordinance should go to the Planning Commission sometime in April and then to the City Council for formal adoption sometime in May.

### Final Public Comment Period for Uptown Hamel Zoning Ordinance

**Wednesday, April 4,  
2001  
6:00 p.m.  
City Hall**

This is the last meeting for the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. As a part of this meeting the committee will be reviewing drawings meant to illustrate a concept of how Uptown Hamel could develop. After this meeting, the Uptown Hamel zoning ordinance draft goes to the Planning Commission. If you have any questions about the meeting, please call Sandie Larson, Planning and Zoning Assistant, at 763-473-4643 or sandie@ci.medina.mn.us.

## Park and Recreation News



### LAKESHORE PARK DOCK

The new dock at Lakeshore Park in Independence Beach is almost ready to be placed in the water. The dock is in the process of being refurbished and should be launched by April 15. The new dock is aluminum and replaces the old wooden dock that was damaged in a storm two years ago.

Plans for the dock later this summer include an umbrella and some benches. Tony Barden is raising funds for the improvement of the dock. If you would like to contribute, please call Tony Barden, Independence Beach resident at 763-479-6895. Barden and the City thank the many people who have made donations for the dock. The dock itself was donated by the Austin Mutual Insurance Company.

### Park Commission Meetings

Please come to the next meeting and give your opinion on the status of the City’s parks. Who better to judge a park than its users! If you have any questions, comments, input, or ideas on any parks concern, let the Commissioners know. Meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

### HAMEL LEGION PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING UPDATE

The Park Commission, City staff, and Hamel Lions are working towards building a new community building in Hamel Legion Park. The community building will include a picnic shelter, a warming house, and a community room.

The Community Building most likely will be built in Summer of 2002. Funding issues as well as work on the Uptown Hamel zoning ordinance are delaying the project for this year.

# Dates to Remember

## April 2001

- 3 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.  
*commercial development moratorium ends*
- 4 Wed Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) meeting, City Hall 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Thurs Recycling Day
- 10 Tue Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Wed Board of Review Meeting, City Hall 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Wed Park Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Thurs Recycling Day
- 28 Sat Clean-up Day, City Hall Public Works 8:00 a.m.

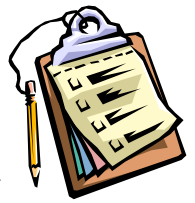
## May 2001

- 1 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Thurs Recycling Day
- 8 Tue Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Wed Park Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Thurs Recycling Day
- 28 Mon Memorial Day (observed), City offices closed

## June 2001

- 1 Fri Recycling Day
- 5 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Tue Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Thurs Cabin Social, City Hall Wolsfeld Cabin 6:30 p.m.
- Recycling Day
- 19 Tue City Council Meeting, City Hall 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Wed Park Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Thurs Recycling Day

# RESIDENT SURVEY COMING SOON



Keep your eyes open for a survey coming soon to your mailbox. The survey will measure quality of life in Medina. The more people who complete the survey, the closer the responses will reflect the population.

The survey is being conducted by Medina resident, Andrew Gustafson, son of Steven and Darlene Gustafson, a Wayzata High School sophomore, for his Eagle Scout project. He wrote the survey and he will analyze the results.

The survey should only take between ten and fifteen minutes to complete. Your time and response are greatly appreciated.



## Beware of Deer Crossing!

The Medina Police Department would like to remind you to be aware of deer near the roadways. Now that spring is arriving, animals are perking up. As soon as leaves form on the trees, deer will have a good place to hide, unseen from moving vehicles. As soon as a deer comes out of the trees, it is almost in the roadway.

Always use your seatbelt—the car-deer impact contains a lot of force and could result in you going through the windshield. If you do hit a deer, carefully pull off the road, turn on your hazard lights, treat passenger injuries, and call 911. Wait until the police arrive before touching the deer.

## Share the Road!

Cars and trucks aren't the only things using Medina's roads. Pedestrians, bicyclists, horses, and farm equipments all use the roadways, but often at slower speeds than cars. Be aware of them as you are driving, especially now that Spring is arriving. Please slow down or move to the left lane when passing someone slower on the road. Also, give room to passing emergency vehicles passing as well as emergency vehicles parked on the shoulder.

## Did You Know...

In new home installation, your septic tank should be cleaned soon after of initial use as a precautionary measure to ensure good bacterial activity and proper functioning. In new homes, wastewater from painting, varnishing, staining, and other construction functions can reduce the initial levels of bacterial activity causing damage to the soil treatment system. If finishing work is still being completed, the tank should be cleaned before it is used for sewage. If you have any questions, please call Loren Kohnen, Planning and Zoning Administrator, at 763-473-4643. A septic owner's handbook is available at City Hall free of charge.

# CITY COUNCIL SELECTS NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

At its February 20, 2001 meeting, the City Council chose two new Planning Commissioners and re-appointed one Commissioner. For the past two years the Council has only appointed seven members to the Planning Commission even though the City's ordinance allows up to nine members. The Council had only appointed seven members due to lack of interest and difficulty making a quorum. However, recently, there has been a considerable increase in interest by residents who would like to sit on the Commission. Therefore, the Council decided to once again appoint nine members to the Commission.

**Gerald Brost**, 3385 County Road 24, was re-appointed to another term. He was first appointed in 1997. Brost, a long-time Medina resident, is a Chiropractor. He also serves as a Planning Commission representative to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC).

**Sharon Johnson**, 835 Fox Path Court, appointed March 2001, owns, along with her husband, "Recreations," a residential remodeling company. She is committed to preserving and promoting the rural qualities of Medina. Through her remodeling company, she sees many old rural homes and believes they are truly special. She is also a registered dietician, having written curriculum for the Hopkins School District. She also enjoys gardening.

**Mary Verbick**, 855 Foxberry Farms Road, appointed March 2001, substitute teaches and tutors students in preschool through middle school. She is a merit badge coordinator for her Boy Scout troop. During the summer months, she enjoys gardening. Her immediate goal for herself on the Commission is "to learn as much as I can to serve the community." Her term lasts through March 2004.

**Randy Hopper**, 2455 County Road 24, was appointed in January to fill out the seat vacated by Bruce Workman when he was elected to the City Council. He is an attorney and partner at Zimmerman Reed in Minneapolis.

At its March 13, 2001 meeting, the Planning Commission re-elected **Leonard Leuer** Chairman and **Elizabeth Weir** Vice-Chair.

The Planning Commission reviews proposals for such things as developments, variances, zoning issues, and new planning ordinances. They then make recommendations in favor of or against the proposal for the City Council. The Planning Commission may also ask for modifications to a proposal in order to favorably recommend a proposal to the Council. Commissioners are appointed to three year terms. The next openings will be in March 2002 when the terms held by **Elizabeth Weir** and **Susan Mackay** expire.

The remaining Planning Commissioners are **Dick Picard** and **Tom Supel**.

Planning Commission meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Agendas are released the Friday afternoon immediately preceding the meeting. Agendas and minutes are available on the City's website at [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us).

## Medina's Website [www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://www.ci.medina.mn.us)

Medina's website is once again up and running. After some technical difficulties this winter, you can once again get all sorts of community information and descriptions of City services. You can even meet your elected officials and the City staff. We have even put all of the minutes for City Council, Planning Commission, and Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) meetings. Burning permit applications, the landowner consent form for hunting permits, City maps, and the City code are also available online.

Because this is Medina's website, you too can have input into what should be included. If you are looking for information that is not currently provided, please let us know. Our intern, Todd A. Larson, has been working hard on this site, give him a call at 763-473-4643 with your suggestions.

## City Utility Bills

If you have not previously realized it, the Spring quarter water usage determines your sewer bill for the entire year. One easy way to reduce your bill is simply to conserve water!

Did you forget to pay your Medina recycling, water, or sewer bills last year? If you did, they will be included on your property tax statement. If you have any questions, call Laura Sulander, Deputy Clerk, at 763-473-4643.

## NEW PARK COMMISSIONER

Randy Hughes, 2062 Holy Name Drive, was appointed to the Medina Park Commission in January. His term lasts through January 2004.

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2052 County Road 24, Medina MN 55340



[www.ci.medina.mn.us](http://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  
 Police Fax.....763-473-6939

**Official Newspaper**

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**Mayor**

John Ferris ..... 763-476-4323

**City Council**

Jim Lane ..... 763-473-3302  
 Carolyn Smith..... 763-475-1003  
 Phil Zietlow ..... 763-473-5263  
 Bruce Workman ... 763-478-8806

**City Council Meetings**

First & Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission**

Leonard Leuer, Chair  
 Gerald Brost  
 Robert Hopper  
 Sharon Johnson  
 Susan Mackay  
 Dick Picard  
 Tom Supel  
 Mary A. Verbick  
 Elizabeth Weir

**Planning Commission Meetings**

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Park Commission**

Galen Bruer, Chair  
 Gerald Dykoff  
 Ray Essendrup  
 Tom Gregor  
 Randy Hughes  
 Brad Kvanbek  
 Theresa Richey

**Park Commission Meetings**

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.