

Medina Message

A Quarterly Newsletter of the City of Medina

www.ci.medina.mn.us

Fall 2007

City Calendar

- ▶ **6th** Tues—City Council 8:00 pm
- ▶ **8th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **12th** Mon—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ **13th** Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **17th** Sat—City Council Office Hours 9-11 am
- ▶ **20th** Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **22nd** Thurs—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ **23rd** Fri—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ **23rd** Fri—Recycling Day
- ▶ **28th** Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm

November

- ▶ **3rd** Mon—Truth in Taxation Hearing 6:30 pm
- ▶ **4th** Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **6th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **11th** Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **15th** Sat—City Council Office Hours 9-11 am
- ▶ **18th** Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **19th** Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **20th** Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ **24th** Mon—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ **25th** Tues—City Offices Closed (Holiday)

December

- ▶ **1st** Tues—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ **2nd** Wed—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **8th** Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **15th** Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ **16th** Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ **19th** Sat—City Council Office Hours 9-11 am
- ▶ **21st** Mon—City Offices Closed (Holiday)

January

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

City Council Office Hours

City Council Saturday Office Hours are now being held on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at City Hall. The office hours are an informal setting and serve as an opportunity for residents to bring your thoughts to elected officials for a better Medina.

Normally, one or two members of the Council will be present during the office hours. The office hours will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Residents are encouraged to check the City's website for scheduling confirmation/cancellation.

2008 Proposed Budget & Preliminary Tax Levy

Medina property owners will soon be receiving Truth-in-Taxation (TNT) statements which will outline your proposed property tax payments for 2008. Accommodating the TNT statement this year, will be a City of Medina flyer that explains the distribution of proposed Medina taxes.

On September 4th, the City Council approved a 2008 preliminary tax levy and budget. The proposed levy was set at \$2,897,197, which is an increase of 34.43% from 2007. The preliminary 2008 levy and budget was proposed to maintain core municipal services while addressing long-term needs including road maintenance and reconstruction, fire equipment and facilities, surface water management, and environmental mandates.

The proposed levy may be reduced by the Council during the December TNT hearing, or subsequent budget meetings in December. The Council is prohibited by state law to increase the levy above the amount set on September 4th. Medina's TNT date is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Medina City Hall.

Property owners are welcomed to attend the hearing to present comments related to the proposed property tax levy. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the hearing. Comments or questions may be directed to City Finance Director Jeanne Day at jeanne.day@ci.medina.mn.us

The City has included more information on the 2008 proposed budget on page 4 of this newsletter as well as comparable statistics with neighboring communities on the City's website at www.ci.medina.mn.us.

Comprehensive Plan Update Tuesday, November 27 Public Hearing

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Panel hosted two open houses on October 25th and 27th to present draft plans, receive public feedback, and answer any questions. The formal public hearing for the comprehensive plan will be held at the November 27th Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamel Community Building.

Residents may submit formal written comments prior to the November 27th meeting to be entered into the formal public record, or may attend the public hearing to provide verbal comments. The City encourages the public to submit comments on the proposed comprehensive plan, and also to monitor the City's website for updates on the timeline or continued hearings.

Upon completion of review of the comprehensive plan, the Planning Commission will forward their recommendations to the City Council for review and approval. The City must then send the plan to adjacent jurisdictions for up to a six-month review prior to submitting to the Metropolitan Council for review. Medina's final approvals of the comprehensive plan will occur after receiving Metropolitan Council review and approval.

The City is required to submit the comprehensive plan to the Metropolitan Council by December 2008. The City of Medina is currently ahead of schedule for meeting this mandatory timeline.

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2052 County Road 24, Medina MN 55340



www.ci.medina.mn.us

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 Fax 763-473-9359
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 non-emergency 763-473-9209

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 Elizabeth Weir 763-473-3226
 Joe Cavanaugh 763-473-5123

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

Mary A. Verbick, Chair
 Jeff Pederson
 Charles Nolan
 Doug Dickerson
 Robin Reid
 Michele Litts

Planning Commission Meetings

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

Park Commission

Ann Thies, Chair
 Madeleine Linck
 Brian Kingsley
 Galen Bruer
 Gerald Dykhoff
 Ben Benson
 Bob Pastor

Park Commission Meetings

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

Newsletter Editor

City Administrator
 Chad M. Adams

Other Contributors

Jodi Wunsch

Planning and Appointments

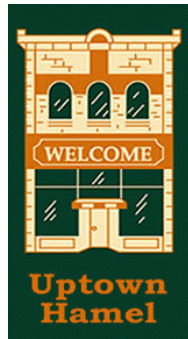
Facilities Master Planning

Upon accepting a Facilities Master Planning report earlier this summer, the City has initiated a site selection review process for a new public works facility. The Facilities report identified the need for 20 to 30 acres of buildable acreage between Tamarack Drive and Willow Drive along the Highway 55 Corridor as the preferred location for the public works facility and grounds.

In addition to reviewing sites, the City will also be discussing options to finance the facility. The Facilities report also identified the need for a new City Hall and Police facilities, at the preferred existing location on City grounds. Additional analysis on the City Hall and Police facility will begin after decisions the public works facility is relocated. Contact City Administrator Chad Adams to learn more about the process.

A full copy of the Facilities Master Plan and facility cost projections are included on the City's website.

Uptown Hamel Streetscape Design Open House on November 19th



The City of Medina is hosting an open house on Monday, November 19th between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Hamel Community Building to solicit public comments on streetscape design concepts for Hamel Road.

The City Engineer is in the process of preparing a feasibility report for the reconstruction of Hamel Road, from Brockton Lane to Hunter Drive. Examples of streetscape design concepts will be displayed at the open house.

The streetscape design concepts will assist the City in determining projected cost estimates for the project, feasibility for proceeding forward with a public improvement project, as well as funding mechanisms which could include tax increment financing or special assessments.

Interested parties may attend the open house at any time during the event.

City Welcomes New Planning Director

The City of Medina is pleased to welcome Tim Benetti as the new Planning Director. Tim began his duties on August 31st of this year.

Tim will serve as head of the planning department and is responsible for current and long range planning and development activities, reviewing land use development plans, department budgeting, implementing and maintaining the City's ordinances and Comprehensive Plan, and serving as staff liaison to the Planning Commission.



Planning Commission Appointments

The Planning Commission has three seats open for appointment/re-appointment on January 1st. Two seats will be for a three-year term and one seat will be filling the remaining two years of an existing term.

The seven-member Planning Commission is a recommending body to the City Council and will have the following responsibilities in the next few years:

- ▶ City Ordinances—with the comprehensive plan completion nearing, several zoning and land use ordinances will be updated and reviewed by the commission.
- ▶ Development project review—Includes subdivisions, site plan reviews, planned unit developments, variances, conditional use permits, etc.

Interested applicants may pick up an application at City Hall or via the City's website. Deadline for the application is Friday, December 14.

Park Commission Appointments

The City is seeking residents to serve on the Medina Park Commission. Two seats on the seven member commission are currently up for appointment/re-appointment effective January 1st. Both seats include a three-year term.

The Park Commission is a recommending body to the City Council and will be involved with the following projects in the next few years:

- ▶ Open Space Preservation of Medina's natural features & resources
- ▶ Long-term Capital Improvement Plan of trails, park equipment, and acquiring new parks, trail easements and open spaces.
- ▶ Development projects—Review of subdivisions to determine proper location of trails, dedication of parks, and utilization of park dedication fees.
- ▶ Trail Study—Updating a comprehensive trail study to prioritize trails and address surface types, width, location, and other trail characteristics in the city.

Interested applicants may pickup an application at City Hall or via City's website. Deadline for applications is Friday, December 14.

Various City Appointments

The City is also seeking people interested in being appointed to serve as a city representative on various commissions such as the Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission, Elm Creek Watershed Commission, etc. The Council reappoints Medina residents to the various commissions during the first Council meeting in January of each year. Please contact City Administrator Chad Adams if interested in serving on any of these commissions.

Public Works and General Info.

Brush Pile & Yard Raking

The City offers a composting facility at the public works shop building located northwest of City Hall. Leaves, grass clippings, and brush are all welcome. Please follow the posted signs as to where to put what you bring in. Remember no bags or containers are to be left on the site.

Residents may drop brush off any time during business hours, on Wednesday evenings until 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

As the leaves continue to fall off the trees, remember to take the time to rake and bag them up rather than letting them fall into the streets. Leaves in the street get washed into storm drains.

In large quantities, leaves can block drains and contribute to localized flooding. In smaller quantities, the leaves flow through the storm drains down to the streams and creeks where they disrupt the natural ecosystem.



Local Roads and Truck Traffic

With the desire to limit or prohibit additional truck traffic through the community, the City Council, at their October 2nd City Council meeting, formally requested Hennepin County to review and consider the turn back of some, all or portions of County Road 115 (Hamel Road) and County Road 201 (Parkview Road and Homestead Trail) to the City of Medina. The County's review process and response to the City could take up to eight months.

The City also conducted a cost analysis of taking back the roads from the County. Results of the analysis demonstrated a potential \$985,000 cost to take back the roads in their current condition and \$6,075,000 to maintain them over 20 years. Other options, such as encouraging the County to install signs limiting trucks on these roads, are being reviewed as well.

Highway 55 Corridor Mapping

The Highway 55 Corridor Coalition has been working with communities along the corridor from Plymouth to Annandale to prepare a preferred long-term design of the highway. The City Council will be considering an endorsement of a preferred alternative through Medina at the November 20th Council meeting that includes long-term interchange concepts at the intersections of CSAH 116 and County Road 101. The public is encouraged to review the plans on the City's website and is welcome to attend the November 20th meeting to comment.

Snowplowing Tips for the Upcoming Winter Weather Season

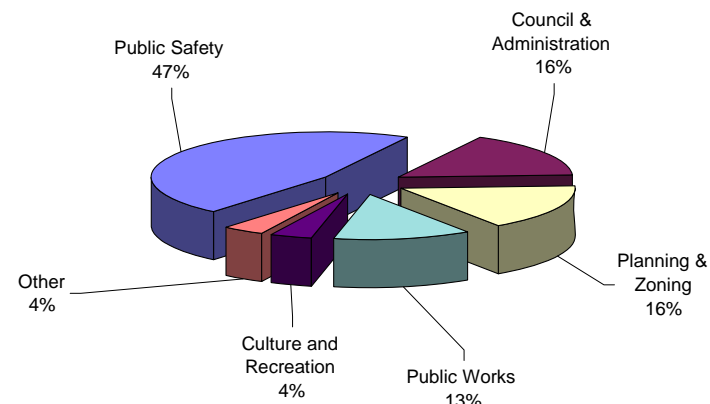
- ▶ **Starting of Snowplowing Season:** As a general rule, snow removal operations may start as soon as two inches of snow has accumulated. If a heavy snow fall is predicted, snow removal will be based on the existing conditions, snow forecast, wind conditions and time of day. Ideally the crew works to keep the roads passable during the morning and evening hours. During a normal snow fall, all roads are plowed. During a snow storm, lesser traveled residential roads and cul-de-sacs may have the plowing delayed while the crew concentrates on main thru-roads.
- ▶ **City Methods for Ice Control:** The City uses a salt/sand mixture for ice removal. During extremely cold conditions salt will not melt ice, so the use of sand will be used for traction. The City is concerned about the environmental impact of salt and sand, as well as the fiscal impact of materials. Therefore, the City does not have a bare pavement policy, which may cause City roads to be slippery and drivers should be cautious.
- ▶ **Damage to Property:** During any plowing operation, there is always potential for damage to mailboxes, sod, or other structures that are on the public right-of-way. The City assumes no responsibility for damage to property caused by snow plows, including mailboxes. If a mailbox is damaged, the City may provide a temporary mailbox. Before the snow season begins, mailboxes should be checked for sturdiness and repaired as needed. To limit sod damage, it is advised to place a marker along curb lines. Wood and fiberglass markers are permitted. Metal poles are strictly prohibited within the City right-of way.
- ▶ **Location of Receptacles on Garbage/Recycling Days:** On garbage and recycling days, please place garbage receptacles out of the way where the plow drivers will drive. Plow drivers do not want to get out and move containers, but at the same time, we do not want garbage or recyclables spread all over.
- ▶ **Street Parking Details:** The City has an ordinance that prohibits parking on any public street from November 1 through March 31 during the hours of 1:00AM – 6:00AM. This parking policy is enforced by the Medina Police Department. If at all possible, the City plow crew would appreciate having no vehicles parked on City streets when snowfall occurs during the daytime also. By doing so, the plowing will be more efficient and will result in a quicker snow removal.
- ▶ **Plowing of Sidewalks and Trails:** It is the responsibility of property owners to remove snow on their sidewalks. The City will begin plowing trails this winter season, but only after all other surfaces are plowed.



The Medina Public Works Department strives to maintain safe, clean and passable roads all winter long. Roads are maintained using City equipment and personnel. In some areas, the City contracts out plowing services.

2008 Budget & General Info.

What Your Proposed 2008 City Tax Dollar Buys

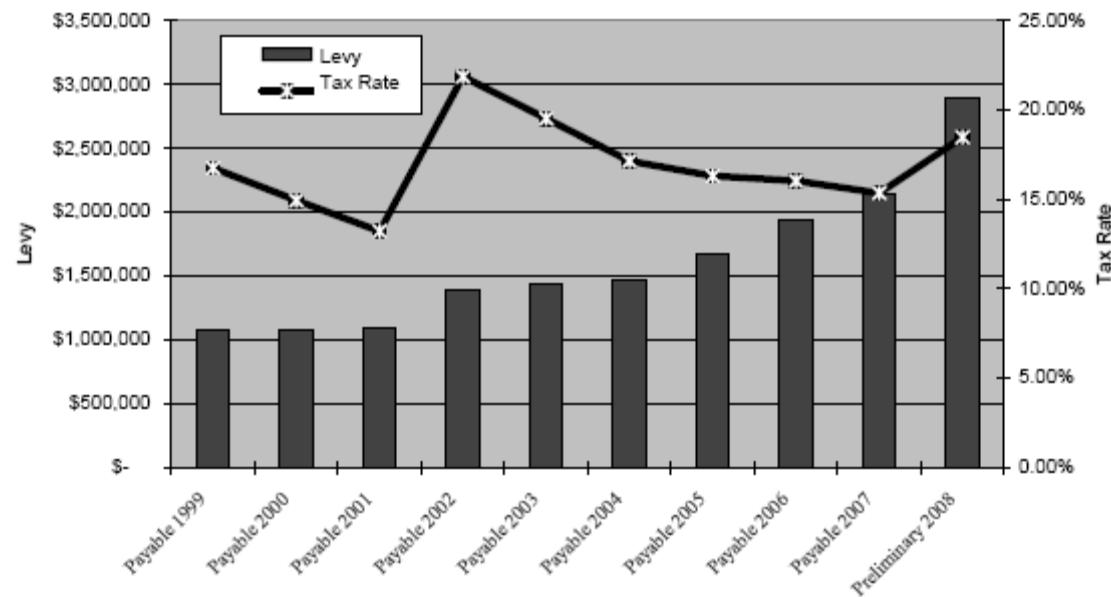


Proposed 2008 Budget Allocations

Increases in the proposed budget include:

- ▶ **Total 2008 Increase:** \$733,944, or 34.43%
- ▶ **Road Maintenance & Reconstruction:** \$186,500 increase, up from \$13,500 in 2007
- ▶ **Environmental Mandates & Projects:** \$150,000 increase, up from \$25,000 in 2007
- ▶ **Fire Equipment/Facilities & Public Works Equipment:** \$175,000 increase, up from \$25,000 in 2007
- ▶ **Police Department Personnel & Contracts:** \$156,290, or 9% increase from 2007.
- ▶ **Other Items:** \$66,154 increase from 2007, which includes other department personnel, wage and salary increases, etc.

Historical Analysis of City Tax Levy and Tax Rate



Hamel Volunteer Fire Department Awarded Fire Act Grant

The City of Medina is pleased to announce that the Hamel Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) was recently awarded a 2007 Fire Act Grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$28,073 for the purpose of replacing their SCBA air compressor. SCBA is a self-contained breathing apparatus. The grant amount of \$28,073 is 95% of the estimated cost of \$29,550 requested in the application (the program requires a minimum 5% match).

In addition to replacing the compressor the Hamel VFD will be purchasing and installing a fill station containment system which will improve the overall safety of the firefighters when refilling SCBA bottles. This grant was funded as a "Responder Health and Safety" project and packaging both the compressor replacement and addition of the containment system was an important part of the presentation and justification or this project to the review committee.

The Hamel VFD also recently received funding from the Corcoran Lions which will allow them to purchase a second Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and upgrade their existing defibrillator to handle pediatric emergencies. The additional AED and upgrade of our existing AED will give them identical response capabilities for their two engines (E11 and E12).

Community Events and Education

Solid Waste, Recycling, and Organics Collection License with Randy's Sanitation

The City of Medina recently received proposals for a five-year license to provide single-family residential solid waste collection, recyclable collection, and optional organics collection in the City. The City will be considering approval of a five-year license with Randy's Sanitation at the November 6th meeting. The license will be effective January 1st and will require all single family dwelling units and duplexes in the City to receive solid waste and recyclable collection with Randy's Sanitation.

Randy's Sanitation will be distributing material to residents in coming weeks to define their 2008 collection schedule and information on how to begin your services with Randy's beginning January 1, 2008.



New Organics Recycling Program

The City of Medina is excited to offer its residents a new optional organics collection recycling service through Randy's Sanitation, beginning January 2008. Organics recycling allows you to recycle your food scraps and food-soiled paper into compost. Organics makes up approximately 25% of what we throw away.

By participating in this program, you can reduce your monthly trash service by obtaining a smaller container or even every other week collection. Recycling organics, rather than throwing them away, will take up less space in our landfills and allow the organics to be turned into compost to create a valuable resource used in landscaping and road construction projects.

What is Accepted in Organics Recycling?

Food Scraps:

- Fruits & vegetables
- Meat, fish & bones
- Bread, pasta & baked goods
- Egg shells
- Dairy products
- Coffee Grounds

Food-soiled paper products:

- Paper towels & napkins; Paper plates & cups
- Milk & juice cartons
- Pizza boxes/Egg cartons
- Boxes from frozen & refrigerated foods
- Waxed paper & paper containers
- Coffee filters & tea bags

Other compost able items:

- Full vacuum cleaner bags
- Dryer lint
- Tissues & cotton balls
- Floral trimmings & house plants



Medina Celebration Day 2007

Medina Celebration Day was held on Saturday, September 22nd at the Hamel Community Building. The City was excited to see the great turn-out for this year's celebration. The weather was wonderful and there were a lot of exciting activities for families and the community. Some of the activities the children participated in were karaoke, face painting, hair braiding, pumpkin painting, an inflatable bounce toy, and s'mores around the campfire. The whole family was able to participate in bingo, a veterans memorial dedication, Hennepin County K-9 demonstration, educational and historical displays, and local food and beverage vendors. The night ended with an impressive fireworks display sponsored by area businesses.



Above is the Hennepin Cty. K-9 demonstration.

Below Mayor Crosby recognizes the 4-H Club for their donation towards the fire pit.



The City of Medina would like to thank all the contributors, exhibitors, and volunteers who were involved in Medina Celebration Day. This event could not have happened without their support.

Medina Celebration Day Committee	Hamel Fire Department	McDonalds
4-H Clover Patch Club	Hamel Library	Medina Entertainment Center
Adam's Pest Control, Inc.	Hamel Lions	Medina Golf & Country Club
Anytime Fitness	Hedtke Marketing	Polaris Industries
Argent Parc	Hennepin County	Premax
Boy Scouts Troop 570	Hennepin County Sheriff's K-9	Scherer's Pumpkin Patch
Country Side Caf�	Highway 55 Rental	Shamrock Golf
Culver's	Inn Kahoots	T Nails
Dobo's Caf�	Intercomp	Target
Doboszanski & Sons	Jackson Hewitt	Twingo Automotive
Elm Creek Golf Course	Jimmy's Pizza	U of M Extension Service
Fantastic Sam's	Lingen Construction	Uptown Hamel Business Assoc.
Farmers State Bank of Hamel	Liquor Depot Inc.	West Hennepin Pioneers Assoc.
Fortin Hardware Co.	Loram Inc.	West Metro Tax Services, Inc.
Gramercy Club	Maxxon Midwest Corporation	Wine Styles
Hamel Athletic Association	Mayer Mobil Gas Station	Wright Hennepin Electric
Hamel Electric, Inc.		

Don't miss next year's celebration, which will be Medina's, as well as Minnesota's, 150th Anniversary!