

Medina Message

A Quarterly Newsletter of the City of Medina

www.ci.medina.mn.us

Spring 2007

City Calendar

- ▶ 12th Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ 14th Sat—Park Commission Park Tour 8:30 am
- ▶ 17th Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 18th Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 26th Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ 28th Sat—City Clean-Up Day 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

April

- ▶ 1st Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 8th Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 10th Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ 15th Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 16th Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 24th Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ 28th Mon—City Offices Closed (Holiday)

May

- ▶ 5th Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 7th Thurs—Recycling Day
- ▶ 12th Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 19th Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 20th Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 21st Thurs—Recycling Day

June

- ▶ 3rd Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 4th Wed—City Offices Closed (Holiday)
- ▶ 6th Fri—Recycling Day
- ▶ 10th Tues—Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 17th Tues—City Council 7:00 pm
- ▶ 18th Wed—Park Commission 7:00 pm
- ▶ 19th Thurs—Recycling Day

July

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

Summer City Council Saturday Office Hours Suspended

City Council Saturday Office Hours will experience a summer break during the months of June, July, and August. They will reconvene in September through the end of the year on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at City Hall. Residents are encouraged to check the City's website for scheduling confirmation/cancellation.

Open Space Plan to be Presented on Tuesday, April 24... Your input is needed!!

The Open Space Task Force will present and seek input on its Open Space Plan (currently in draft form) at public forums on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. Presentations will be held at both 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Hamel Community Building (3200 Mill Drive). The Open Space Plan suggested by the Task Force will be considered as a piece of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is currently being updated. It is meant as a guide to protect the rural character and natural resources of the City as the community evolves and grows over the next few decades.

Public participation and feedback is essential in order to create an Open Space Plan that best serves the interests of Medina residents. Interested persons can attend at either 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Following a short presentation, an open house and small group discussions will occur to generate useful feedback and ideas for the Task Force before they finalize the draft Plan.

The Task Force looks forward to seeing you at the Community Building on Tuesday, April 24, 2007!!



2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan Update: Progress & Timeline

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Panel has held regular meetings twice a month since February 1st. The meetings have consisted of work sessions on developing goals and strategies as well as reviewing the land use plan for the community. Meetings are open to the public and the Panel takes public comment at the end of each meeting.

There will be two more regular work sessions at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall on Monday, April 30th and Monday, May 14th. At the April 30th session, the Panel will be reviewing concept drawings that have been collected from landowners/developers over the past several months. The drawings do not represent a formal application for land-use, but are being utilized to assist the Panel in land-use considerations.

Landowners interested in submitting a concept drawing are encouraged to provide to the City by end of day on April 23rd to allow for proper coordination for the April 30th meeting.

After compiling information from these work sessions, the Advisory Panel will be holding an open house to update the community on their progress, receive feedback, and answer any questions. Please check the City's web site for more information on the open house date and regularly updated meeting dates.

The City's Comprehensive Plan serves as the City's growth and land use tool for the next 20 years and will ultimately affect the City's population and need for infrastructure and facilities. Questions can be directed to Assistant to Planning Dusty Finke at dusty.finke@ci.medina.mn.us.

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2052 County Road 24, Medina MN 55340



City Clean-Up Day Information Enclosed



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
 Fax763-473-9359
 Police emergency 911
 non-emergency 763-473-9209

Official Newspaper

South Crow River News
 33 2nd Street NE, Box 280
 Osseo, MN 55369
 Telephone Number: 763-425-3323

Mayor

Tom Crosby..... 612-766-8605

City Council

Carolyn Smith..... 763-475-1003
 Daniel Johnson 763-473-0744
 Elizabeth Weir 763-473-3226
 Joe Cavanaugh.....763-473-3828

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
 Mark Bryant
 Robin Reid
 Sharon Johnson

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 Dykoff
 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

Parks and Environment

Create a Rain Garden Workshop

A free workshop on creating a rain garden will be held on Thursday, May 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamel Community Building, 3200 Mill Drive.

Rain gardens add soft prairie flower beauty to your yard, slow run-off, help to recharge precious aquifers and absorb excess nutrients that would otherwise flow into our lakes, creeks and streams. One small rain garden at a time, you can help banish the all-too-familiar green froth of algae in our local waters and restore them to health.

Connie Fortin, of Fortin Consulting, will be presenting at the Workshop to discuss slowing run-off from your yard and rain barrel collection of roof run-off, which provides an extra source of garden water in times of summer drought. Pre-register at the door or at jodi.wunsch@ci.medina.mn.us.

The City has also allocated funding for free on-site consultations to create a rain garden and address shoreline buffering. Please contact City Hall for more details and to sign-up for the consultations.

Dog Waste in the Parks

When walking your dogs in the city parks, please remember to bring bags to clean up their waste. Thanks for doing your part in keeping our city parks clean.

Creating a Bird-Friendly Home: Birds & Window Glass by Madeleine Linck

Millions of birds are killed each year in North America by collisions with window glass. This mortality is in addition to other deaths due to collisions with other man-made structures such as communication towers, power lines, automobiles, and wind turbines. World-wide, more buildings are made from reflective glass with disastrous consequences for birds of many species, common & rare.

Many of us have heard a thud on the window only to go outside to find a lifeless song bird lying on the ground. Occasionally the bird is just stunned and might revive, if kept warm and protected. However, more typically, the bird is dead. Spring and fall migration times are especially deadly, but window strikes can happen anytime.

Glass is an invisible killer. Birds do not see or understand windows and reflections. When flying, birds focus on their distant objective and are misled into flying through what they perceive to be sky and trees. Some of the most deadly situations are windows with clear views into the inside and picture windows or glass doors with large plants inside. One must go outside and look back at the window to see what the birds actually see. Invariably, it is the reflection of sky, clouds, and nearby vegetation.

As homeowners, there are several ways to reduce this carnage. First, hawk silhouettes pasted on a picture window do not work! Birds do not see these as predators and will simply fly around them, still hitting the window. Effective solutions include:

- ▶ Closing blinds and curtains to mute reflections
- ▶ Placing bird feeders no more than 2 feet from the side of your house (so birds will not build up enough speed to hurt themselves, if they fly off alarmed)
- ▶ Moving green plants away from windows
- ▶ Hanging wind chimes, bird flashing tape and UV decals sold at bird feed stores on the OUTSIDE of the windows
- ▶ Hanging bright window art, banners to overpower the reflections
- ▶ Installing awnings or external window screens that mute reflections
- ▶ Installing CollidEscape film, available on the internet (see websites given below), on problem windows



For much more information, visit www.flap.org and www.birdsandbuildings.org or email Madeleine Linck at madeleine.linck@gmail.com and she will try to help make your home and yard more bird-friendly. Thanks for thinking of the birds!

Hennepin County Compost Bin Reduced Cost Sale

Hennepin County has partnered with Lakewinds Natural Foods to sell compost bins. Backyard composting is an easy way for residents to turn much of the waste from their yards and kitchens into a rich material that can be used to improve soil. Using finished compost on lawns and gardens will provide an organic fertilizer, suppress weeds, and hold moisture in the soil.



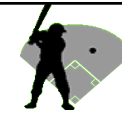
The bins are being sold at a reduced cost of only \$30. The compost bin features a 13-cubic-foot capacity, sturdy, easy-to-open lid, two harvesting doors, and is made of black recycled plastic. There is a limit of one bin per household. The bins are available two ways:

Lakewinds Natural Foods in Minnetonka (17501 Minnetonka Blvd., phone number: 952-473-0292) and Chanhassen (435 Pond Promenade, phone number: 952-697-3366). Residents must pre-order by May 3 by stopping in or calling the store, or by registering online at www.hennepin.us keyword search "compost bin". Payment will be made at the time of pick-up on or after May 19 during regular store hours. (see www.lakewinds.com)

Hennepin County's Drop-off Facility in Brooklyn Park. Bins will be available for purchase on a first come, first serve basis on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 8 pm, beginning May 23. No pre-order is necessary. Bins are available while supplies last.

For general questions about the compost bin sale, see www.hennepin.us keyword search "compost bin" or call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-9266.

General Information



Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic Saturday, May 12th

Hamel Legion Park has been selected as one of the sites for one of the Minnesota Twins Youth Clinics. The clinic will be held on May 12th at the Hamel Legion Park Anderson fields from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Twins Youth Clinics are designed to teach the game's fundamentals including hitting, fielding and throwing, while also providing participants with positive messages about staying in school and away from drugs and alcohol. No registration is required to participate in the clinic.

The clinic will provide quality hands-on instruction for boys and girls ages 6-16. The first session from 9-10:30 will be for youth ages 6-9 years old and the second session 10:30-12:00 is for youth 10-16. Participants are divided into three groups and rotated between hitting, fielding and throwing stations. The Twins provide safe, youth-friendly equipment. Youth participants are asked to bring their own gloves.



Get to Know Your Public Works Department

Public Works is in charge of all the public facilities in Medina. Public Works functions can be broken down into four categories: water, sanitary and storm sewers, parks, and city roads. The Public Works crew also takes care of the city's brush pile, wood chip mulch, compost and the Annual Clean-up Day.

Water

- ▶ Hydrant maintenance and repair
- ▶ Water meter reading, hookup, and repair
- ▶ Emergency water shut off
- ▶ Routine monitoring and flushing of the City's nine wells, pump stations, and the water treatment plant

Sewer

- ▶ City sewer lines
- ▶ Sewer backup

Parks

- ▶ General park maintenance
- ▶ Trail clearing and plowing
- ▶ Tree planting
- ▶ Playground safety inspections

Roads

- ▶ General road maintenance
- ▶ Street sweeping and other contracts
- ▶ Snow plowing
- ▶ Street signs and lights

Public Works Staff

- ▶ Steve Scherer, Public Works Foreman
- ▶ Ivan Dingmann, Water & Sewer Operator
- ▶ Bob Dressel, Equipment Operator
- ▶ Greg Leuer, Maintenance Worker
- ▶ Linda Lane, Office Assistant



Open Space Technical Assistance

The Council recently accepted \$30,000 worth of technical assistance to research fiscal aspects and community support for open space protection. Embrace Open Space and the Trust for Public Land will be providing the technical assistance to the City.



The research conducted through the technical assistance will help the City evaluate if a voter referendum or other sources of funding are viable options to support open space priorities that will soon be established through the Open Space Plan.

City Welcomes New Office Assistant

The City of Medina is pleased to welcome Linda Lane as the new Office Assistant to Planning and Public Works. Linda began her duties on March 26th.

Linda will be the City's primary contact for answering phones and assisting the public at the front counter.

27th Annual Hamel Rodeo July 5th-8th, 2007

The Hamel Rodeo is put on each year by six community service, non-profit organizations featuring the PRCA World Championship Rodeo. The four day event includes evening performances at 7:30 p.m. each night, a Saturday afternoon family day beginning at 1 p.m., and a Sunday Parade at 2 p.m. down Main Street Hamel.

There are a number of activities to participate in; here are just a few:

- ▶ Thursday, July 5th - "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" Breast Cancer Awareness Night.
- ▶ Saturday, July 7th - "Safety Day" - free children fingerprinting and identification cards

For more information check out the Hamel Rodeo web site at <http://hamelrodeo.org>.

Facilities Master Plan—Update

The Facilities Master Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee continues to meet to plan for future City facilities, which includes City Hall, Police Department, and Public Works. The committee is currently working on a draft Facilities Plan and will be meeting next on Thursday, May 31 at Medina City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

The committee and consultant are planning on submitting a Facilities Master Plan to the Council in June 2007 for review and discussion.

Public Safety and General Info.

Traffic Control Measures



New Stop Signs On Holy Name Drive

At the March 6th Medina City Council meeting, the Council directed staff to install two new stop signs off Holy Name Drive at the Cheyenne Trail and Lakeview Road intersections in an attempt to create some speed/traffic calming measures. Since then, City staff received a number of positive and negative comments which were put into a comment log for future review by the City Council.

At the April 3rd City Council meeting, the comment log was reviewed by the City Council and City staff requested direction on the stop signs and speed humps as traffic control measures. The Council recommended keeping these signs through the end of the summer of 2007 at which time staff will bring a report back to the Council to make a final decision on future traffic calming measures throughout the City. If you have additional questions regarding this process, please email city@ci.medina.mn.us.

Truck Traffic Ordinance Approved

The City Council approved an ordinance that will prohibit trucks over 35,000 lbs. of gross vehicle weight from traveling on many City roads. Designated truck routes will be exempt from the prohibition.

A map of the designated truck routes is available on the City web site. Enforcement of the truck traffic regulations will not begin until July 1, 2007 to allow for sufficient time to establish administrative procedures and place signs on applicable City roads.

Medina Spring Load Restrictions

Medina's spring load restriction are currently in effect. Weight restrictions most likely will remain in place until mid-May. Keep watching the city website for details. During this time, all city streets will be limited to 4-ton axle weight, unless otherwise noted on the map (found on the city website) as a 9-ton truck route or a 7-ton city street. The city does not issue any permits to contractors or homeowners during this time. If you have any questions or concerns contact Public Works Foreman Steve Scherer at 763-473-4643.

For county highway load restrictions, see Hennepin County website: <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us>. For state highway load restrictions, see the MnDOT Office of Materials and Road Research website: <http://www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us/>.

BBQ Grill Safety



Each year about 600 fires/explosions occur with gas grills, causing injuries. Many of the accidents happen the first time a grill is ignited for the season or after the grill's gas container is refilled and reattached. Before you plan your next outdoor cookout review these safety tips:

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Make sure your grill's propane tank has a three-prong gas valve handle. As of April 1, 2002, the three-prong design replaced a five-prong handle as the safety standard.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas container upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Make sure your spark igniter is consistently generating a spark to create a flame and burn the propane gas. If the flame is not visible, the heavier-than-air propane gas may be escaping and could cause an explosion.
- Never bring the propane tank into the house.
- When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves. Keep children and pets far away from grills.

Keeping in mind that charcoal when burned in grills produces carbon monoxide (CO). CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Each year about 17 people die as a result of CO fumes from charcoal being burned indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. To reduce the risk of CO poisoning:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Public Works

2007 Medina Clean-up Day Saturday, April 28th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



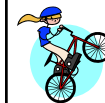
Clean-up Day is an opportunity to bring items that you no longer need and dispose of them either free of charge or for a minimal fee. A variety of trees will also be available for purchase at a reduced price. The event will be held in the parking lot at the City Hall site adjacent to the Public Works garage at 2052 County Road 24. Volunteers are needed for the event and are not charged for disposal of their items. Please contact City Hall if you desire to volunteer for the Clean-Up Day. The schedule of fees for collecting the following items and materials and acquisition of trees shall be:

Accepted Items:

Brush	No Charge
Leaves	No Charge
Scrap iron	No Charge
Batteries	No Charge
Anti-freeze	No Charge
Air Conditioners	\$20 each
Dehumidifiers	\$20 each
Appliances	\$10 each
Televisions/computers	\$3-6
Tires – cars	\$3 each
Tires – truck – off rim	\$7.70
Tires – truck – rim	\$10
Tires – tractor	\$15 minimum
Dumping	\$10 small load
-(i.e. carpet, furniture/building materials)	
Dumping	Up to \$30 large load
-(full tied down pick-up truck)	

Not Accepted Items:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---|
| ▶ Treated Wood | ▶ Concrete bricks | ▶ Copy machines, printers & fax machines |
| ▶ Recyclables | ▶ Household Garbage | ▶ Household/agriculture chemicals or containers |
| ▶ Paint | ▶ Fluorescent lights | ▶ Oil & oil products |



At Clean-up Day, the City will also be collecting good useable bikes for interfaith Outreach Community Partners.

The City encourages residents to find alternative solutions from Clean-Up Day for reusable items. Some organizations may pick up reusable items and the donor can claim as a tax deductible item. Some examples of area organizations include:

- ▶ Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota at www.efmn.org
- ▶ Salvation Army at www.salvationarmyusa.org
- ▶ Twin Cities Free Market at www.twincitiesfreemarket.org



Wood Chip Mulch Availability

After the April 28th Clean-Up Day, the City will chip mulch which will be available to residents free of charge. Mulch can be picked up from the mulch pile located on the back side of the Public Works garage.

The City will not be delivering mulch to private residences in 2007. If you have any questions relating to the free wood chip mulch, please call City Hall for details.



Water Treatment Plant Open House Wednesday, May 23, 2007 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The City has scheduled an open house at the new Water Treatment Plant located at 780 Tower Drive. The public is welcome to attend from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23rd. Educational materials and refreshments will be available at the meeting.