

# CityNews



FALL 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## CAMPAIGN SIGN REGULATIONS



In an effort to treat all political candidates consistently and fairly, the City of Apple Valley administers a process to enforce State and City regulations related to the placement of signs in the right-of-way and on City property. The rules apply to political campaign signs for all candidates, regardless of whether they are seeking federal, state, county, city, or school offices.

Consistent with the laws of the State of Minnesota, campaign, private, and commercial signs are not allowed in the following locations:

- Public right-of-way for State Highways, including Trunk Highway 77
- County property and public right-of-way for County Roads
- City property and public right-of-way for City Municipal State-Aid Streets

A map showing the affected streets can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

In addition, City Ordinance prohibits campaign, private, and commercial signs within the first 13-18 feet from the edge of the roadway on all other City streets.

If the City finds a violation on City property or the right-of-way, the sign will be removed and stored at the Apple Valley Central Maintenance Facility located at 6442 140th Street W. Signs may be reclaimed Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Per City Ordinance, the handling fee for removed signs is \$15.00 per sign. Unclaimed signs will be disposed of 60 days after removal.

Campaign signs may be placed on private property with the consent of the property owner. Each sign shall show the name and address of the person responsible for the placement of the sign.

Questions concerning campaign sign rules should be directed to the City Code Enforcement Division at **(952) 953-2570**. Additional information about this topic can be found under "Campaign Sign Regulations" on the Elections page of the City's website.

### Mayor:

Mary Hamann-Roland

### Council Members:

John Bergman  
Thomas Goodwin  
Ruth Grendahl  
Clint Hooppaw

RESIDENTIAL  
CUSTOMER  
ECSRWSSDDM

PRSRRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #419  
TWIN CITIES, MN

The State Primary Election is August 9, 2016

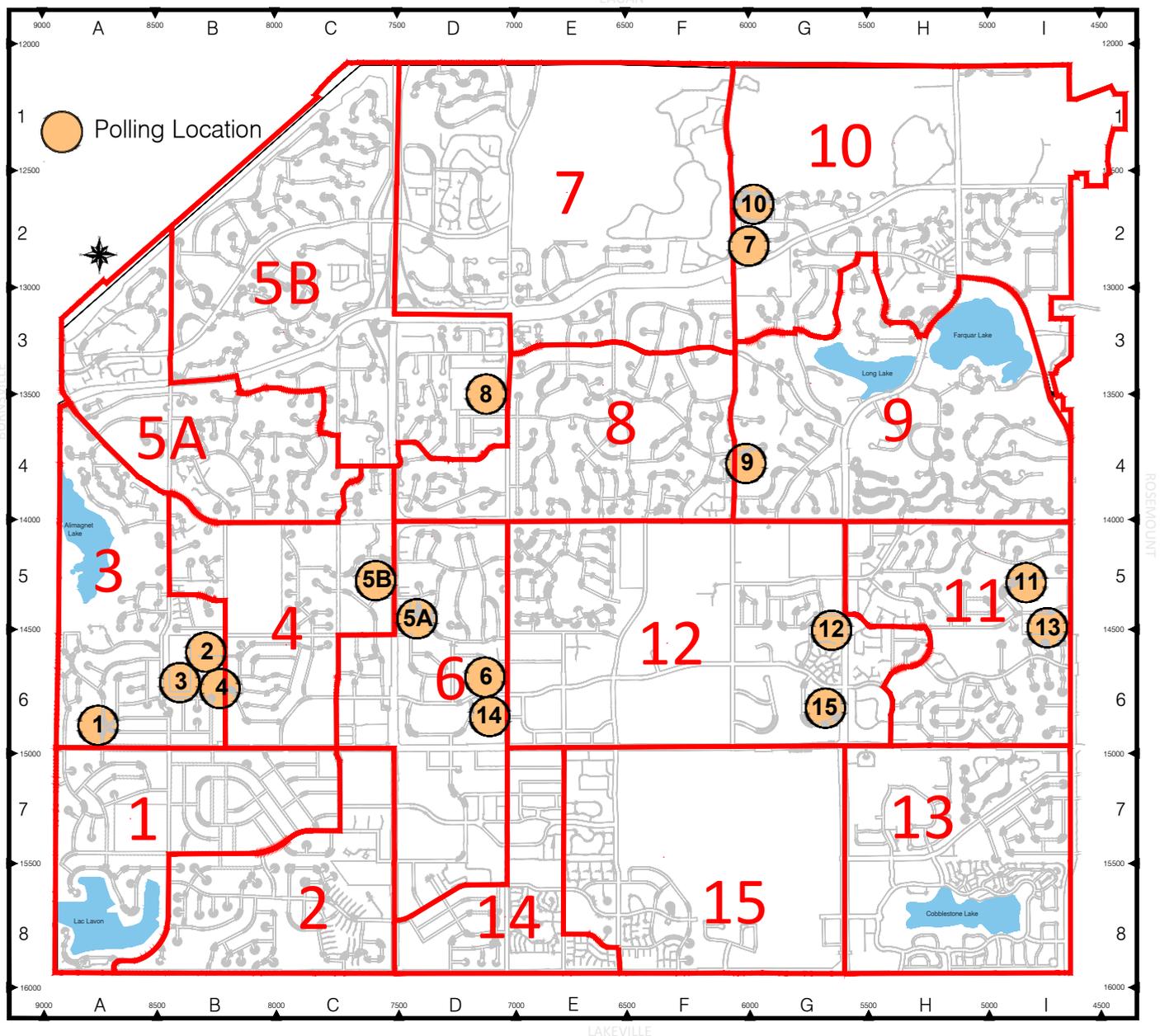
The State Federal and City Election is November 8, 2016

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Be sure to exercise your right to vote!



## 2016 APPLE VALLEY PRECINCT MAP

TOWNSHIP 115N., RANGE 20W.





## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

You still have time to register to vote. You may register online through the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or complete a Voter Registration Application available at the Apple Valley Municipal Center, Dakota County Western Service Center, or on the City’s website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). Pre-registration saves you time. Register today! Your registration is permanent provided you vote at least once every four years and do not change your name or address.

- Voter pre-registration for Primary Election ends July 19
- Voter pre-registration for General Election ends October 18

### REGISTERING ON ELECTION DAY

If you do not pre-register, you may register to vote at the polls by providing proof of residence to the election judges. Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) for registration requirements and a list of documents you can use as proofs of residence on Election Day.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

An individual who meets the following requirements at the time of an election is eligible to vote. The individual must be:

- 18 years of age or older,
- A citizen of the United States,
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the election, and
- Registered to vote

**The following individuals are not eligible to vote. Any individual:**

- Convicted of a felony whose civil rights have not been restored,
- Under guardianship in which the court-order revokes the right to vote, or
- Found by a court of law to be legally incompetent

### ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

Are you interested in the upcoming elections? Would you like to learn more about the election process? If so, why not consider becoming an election judge. The City of Apple Valley is looking for individuals to hire as election judges. Election judges are essential to our democracy and responsible for the administration of election procedures in each precinct on Election Day. To be eligible to work individuals must:

- be eligible to vote in Minnesota
- be able to read, write, and speak English
- be appointed by the City Council
- complete a minimum of two hours of election judge training
- not be a candidate on the ballot
- not be the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, or stepsibling of a candidate on the ballot or another election judge serving in the same precinct at the same time
- not live with a candidate on the ballot
- not be a challenger appointed to contest voter eligibility

*For more information or to submit an Election Judge Application, visit the City’s website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).*

### PRECINCT

NUMBER	POLLING PLACE
1	<b>Redwood Community Center</b> 311 - 150th Street W.
2	<b>Apple Valley Senior Center</b> 14601 Hayes Road
3	<b>Westview Elementary School</b> 225 Garden View Drive
4	<b>Apple Valley Community Center</b> 14603 Hayes Road
5A	<b>Hope Church</b> 7477 - 145th Street W.
5B	<b>Mount Olivet Assembly of God Church</b> 14201 Cedar Avenue
6	<b>Augustana Care Health and Rehabilitation of Apple Valley</b> 14650 Garrett Avenue
7	<b>Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church</b> 12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
8	<b>Greenleaf Elementary School</b> 13333 Galaxie Avenue
9	<b>Community of Christ Church</b> 5990 - 134th Street Court W.
10	<b>South Suburban Evangelical Free Church</b> 12600 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
11	<b>ISD 196 District Service Center</b> 14445 Diamond Path
12	<b>Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church</b> 14401 Pilot Knob Road
13	<b>Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies</b> 14455 Diamond Path
14	<b>Apple Valley Municipal Center</b> 7100 - 147th Street W.
15	<b>River Valley Church</b> 14898 Energy Way



## THANK YOU CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS

An enormous thanks to each person who volunteers their time at Lebanon Cemetery. The City of Apple Valley appreciates the time and energy these dedicated individuals give each year to Lebanon Cemetery of Apple Valley. Their efforts help provide an attractive setting for families and friends visiting the cemetery.

## LEBANON CEMETERY OF APPLE VALLEY

Are you thinking of preplanning cemetery arrangements? Lebanon Cemetery offers a pastoral setting for traditional or cremation lawn burials or cremation columbarium niches.

Lebanon Cemetery is located on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road. It is a non-denominational cemetery open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, 365 days a year. Lebanon Cemetery has proudly served the community since 1863, and is owned and operated by the City of Apple Valley.

For more information or to schedule an individual appointment to meet with a cemetery representative, please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400** or [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us), or visit the web site [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

## CITY WATER

### SEPTEMBER HYDRANT FLUSHING

Public Works crews will be flushing hydrants in the City of Apple Valley. The tentative start date is Monday, September 26. Hydrant flushing takes place Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for approximately four weeks.



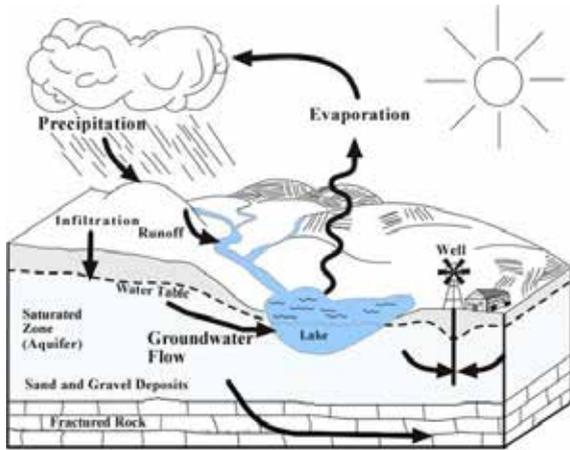
Flushing allows for the purging of rust and stagnant water from the distribution system. In addition, hydrants in need of maintenance are identified. Due to the hydrant flushing, some residents may receive rust-colored water for a brief period. Please check that water coming into the house is clear before doing laundry during this time. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at **952-953-2400**.

### NEED THE WATER OFF FOR A REPAIR?

If you plan to make a repair to your water system and need the water turned off outside the house, the Utilities Division will shut off the water at the curb box. Please call the Public Works Department at least 48 hours before the repair is to be made to schedule the water shut off. The curb box will be located ahead of time and checked for operability. A maintenance worker will meet with you or your representative at the scheduled time to shut off the water. The Public Works main number is **952-953-2400**. A permit may be required for plumbing work. Contact Building Inspections at **952-953-2588** for information.

## DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The annual Drinking Water Quality Report can be found at <http://mn-applevalley.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/967>. The 2016 report is posted on the website in June. The Safe Drinking Water Act determines water quality tests included in the report. The City of Apple Valley meets every water quality standard. The purpose of the report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. To request a paper copy, please call **952-953-2400** or contact us at [pubworks@cityofapplevalley.org](mailto:pubworks@cityofapplevalley.org).



## SAFE DRINKING WATER

The City of Apple Valley relies on groundwater to supply our drinking water. Groundwater is the water that fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow, and surface water become groundwater by infiltrating into the ground and filling these spaces. The top of the water-saturated zone is called the *water table*. When water infiltrates from the surface and reaches the water table, it begins moving toward points where it can escape, such as wells, rivers, or lakes.

An *aquifer* is any type of geologic material, such as sand or bedrock, that can store and supply water to wells or springs. The groundwater that supplies public wells often comes from within one to two miles of the well. How fast groundwater moves depends on how much water is pumped from the well and what type of geologic material the water is moving through.

Apple Valley's water comes from deep wells in the Prairie du Chien, Jordan, and Mt. Simon sandstone aquifers, located several hundred feet underground. Despite this depth, the aquifers can be vulnerable to contamination from human land surface activities. Potential sources of pollution can include:

- Improperly disposed household hazardous wastes.
- Abandoned wells that haven't been properly sealed.
- Poorly-maintained septic systems.
- Overuse of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Leaking storage tanks.
- Unreported spills and illegal dumping.
- Contaminated stormwater runoff.

## Wellhead Protection Plan

The City of Apple Valley is working to protect drinking water by carrying out a Wellhead Protection Plan. This plan has been prepared in conjunction with several local, county, and state agencies. The Minnesota Department of Health is the lead agency for the State's program. These are the steps the City took to develop a Wellhead Protection Plan:

- Identified the aquifer recharge areas to be protected.
- Determined how vulnerable the recharge area is to pollution.
- Identified land uses and potential sources of pollution in the wellhead protection area and implemented ways to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Established a plan to work with property owners and residents to ensure that pollution doesn't degrade our groundwater supplies.

## What Can You Do?

- Help identify land uses and potential sources of contamination on your property (wells, tanks, septic systems, hazardous wastes, etc.).
- Make sure any potential sources of contamination under your control meet local, state, and federal regulations.
- Use hazardous products only as directed and dispose of them properly when no longer needed.
- Practice proper turf management techniques and avoid over-fertilization of your lawn and garden.
- Seal any unused wells on your property according to Minnesota Well Code.
- Conserve water whenever possible.
- Report spills (or illegal dumping) of hazardous wastes, fuels, or chemicals to law enforcement.

For additional wellhead protection information, contact the Minnesota Department of Health at **651-201-4700**, or visit their website at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/whp](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/whp).

## Water Testing

The City of Apple Valley regularly samples the quality of the water pumped by our wells to ensure the water supply meets all State and Federal drinking water standards. An annual report of water quality is available on the Apple Valley website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

Everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water wells—today and for the future.

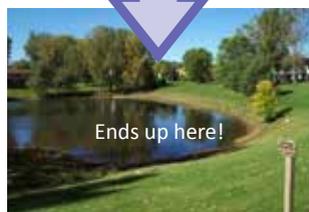
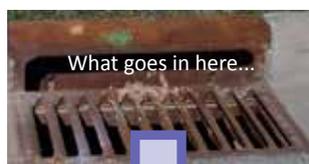


## WHERE THE DRAIN LEADS

The storm drains on your street lead directly to your neighborhood pond or lake in Apple Valley. Water entering the storm drain does **NOT** receive treatment before it flows to your neighborhood pond, so any pollutants that enter the storm drain will pollute local waterbodies during the next rain. **NEVER DUMP** any substance down the storm drain. Anything spilled on streets, sidewalks, and driveways should be cleaned up before it can be washed into the curbside and down the storm drain when it rains. Here are some common pollutants that make it into local ponds from lawns:

- Grass clippings and other yard waste
- Fertilizers
- Oil and anti-freeze
- Soaps
- Pet waste

The next time you are doing yard work and household chores, please remember – only rain down the drain. Sweep up matter from driveways, sidewalks, and streets to protect the ponds and lakes.



Your street is directly connected to your neighborhood pond through the storm drain

## FALL HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Service your Furnace/Air Conditioner. Fall is the best time to call someone to check that your heating and cooling systems are in good working order. You've probably been running your air conditioner all summer, and you are going to turn on the heat soon. If you have someone clean it out, make sure there are no cracked pipes or dirty filters, you'll reduce your energy bills, and reduce the risk of fire.
- Check that your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors are working properly. Change the batteries and test them out so you know they work. If you can get a fire monitoring protection plan for your home, you should. It can save lives and reduce the risk of damage.
- Stock up on winter supplies. Make sure you have shovels, ice melt, ice scrapers, and other winter safety items in your home and car.
- Check your emergency kits. Loss of power, phone service, or a bad storm can leave you housebound. Make sure you have enough food and clean water to last everyone in your home, including pets, for several days. Keep extra flashlights and batteries on hand, and if you use any medication, be sure to have a week's supply in store, just in case.
- Clean up your yard. Rake the leaves and dispose of the leaves and yard waste according to city, county and state refuse regulations. Clean your gutters and examine all the exhaust vents and air intakes on the outside of your home to ensure they are clear of any debris.

## BEWARE OF BURSTING PIPES

Freezing pipes and water mains are far too common during Minnesota winters and a busted pipe can be a major headache for a homeowner. The risk of pipes freezing is even greater with longer stretches of extremely cold weather. Residents should consider the following tips to help avoid frozen pipes in their home.

### Normal Winter Conditions

- Point the furnace cold air return away from your water lines. The water service typically enters the home through the basement floor, and is attached to the water meter.
- Keep the furnace above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Shut off and drain the pipes leading to outside faucets.
- Wrap foam insulation around pipes most susceptible to freezing.

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- Seal air leaks in the home and garage.
- If away from home for an extended period of time, have someone check the home or consider having the City turn the water off at the street. There is a charge to turn the water back on, and no charge to turn it off.

#### Extreme Cold Winter Conditions

- Purchase a thermometer and monitor the home's water temperature. If the water temperature drops below 38 degrees Fahrenheit, leave a cold water tap running at a steady stream of about ¼ inch in diameter (the diameter of a No. 2 pencil).
- Leave kitchen and bathroom sink cupboard doors open to allow heat inside.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### WHAT IS BUCKTHORN?

Buckthorn is an invasive plant introduced into the United States from Europe many years ago, and today is commonly found in most natural and wooded areas. If left unmanaged, buckthorn generally will out-compete with native understory plants and become the dominant plant species. Property owners are encouraged to remove buckthorn to sustain and/or promote native plant communities.

The Apple Valley Public Works Department will assist residents with buckthorn management by providing on-site consultation and use of City-owned pulling tools. Residents can make arrangements with their private waste hauler to dispose of buckthorn material. Buckthorn wood is safe to store and use for firewood. Buckthorn can also be taken to The Mulch Store, 16454 Blaine Avenue, Rosemount, MN **651-423-4401**.

Residents can request City-owned buckthorn removal tool(s) to pull buckthorn out of the ground (\$200 deposit required per tool, cash or check). The tools are about the size of a large shovel with a wrench on the end and fit easily into most vehicles. These tools are designed to pull buckthorn plants with relative ease. Pulling buckthorn eliminates the need for chemical stump treatment. Buckthorn plants larger than a 2" diameter are usually best removed by cutting at ground level and treating each stump chemically to kill the root system.

Additional buckthorn information can be found on the City website or by calling the Public Works Department at **952-953-2400**.

### 5 BUTTERFLIES IN NEED OF NATIVE PLANTINGS

Native plantings have a huge impact. At the top of the list of benefits is wildlife habitat. Listed below are 5 rare butterflies in Minnesota that rely on one or two specific native plants for their larval stage, the caterpillars can only feed on a certain plant. If the host plants are lost, so are these butterflies:



1. Monarch Butterfly caterpillars feed on milkweed plants. 12 species of milkweed are native to Minnesota. Marsh Milkweed and Butterfly Milkweed are two garden favorites that are commonly sold at native plant nurseries.
2. Nabokov's Blue caterpillars feed on Dwarf Bilberry, a cousin of the wild blueberry. This butterfly is a Minnesota species of special concern and is limited to the 3 most northeastern counties in the state.
3. Uncas Skipper caterpillars feed on Hairy Grama, an attractive native prairie grass, in the Minnesota portion of their range and on Blue Grama in the rest of their range. The State of Minnesota classifies the Uncas Skipper as endangered. This butterfly is only found in Sherburne County in Minnesota.
4. Regal Fritillary caterpillars feed on Prairie Bird's Foot Violets and a few other native violets. The Regal Fritillary is a species of special concern in Minnesota and includes portions of Dakota County within its range. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently evaluating whether the Regal Fritillary needs federal protection status.
5. Karner Blue Butterfly caterpillars feed exclusively on Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Most Lupine sold in nurseries is a variety of Bigleaf Lupine and not used by Karner Blue Butterfly larva; however, several local native plant nurseries do sell Wild Lupine. The Karner Blue Butterfly is found on the Federal Endangered Species List. This extremely rare butterfly is only found in Winona County in Minnesota. An additional population in Anoka County died out in the 1980's.

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Providing habitat for the larval stage (caterpillar) of a butterfly is only half the battle. You have to be sure not to kill them with indiscriminant pesticide use, and adult butterflies need a variety of quality nectar sources throughout the growing season to survive. Learn more about gardening with native plants by visiting [www.BlueThumb.org/NativePlantGardens](http://www.BlueThumb.org/NativePlantGardens). Information on native plant vendors can also be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html). The following link has useful information on bees which have similar needs as butterflies, and pesticide use <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/plant-nursery-health/docs/2014-Krischik-pollinator-conservation.pdf>. Most of the information on rare pollinators in this article was found on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>.

## YARD CARE TIPS BEFORE WINTER

Fall is coming! As we enjoy the last days of sunny seventy degree weather, it may be tough to focus on getting some essential lawn chores done for next spring. Now is the time when we lay the groundwork for a successful spring. Here are some items we should be checking off our To-Do list to keep our yards in tiptop shape:

- Keep street curb and gutters free of leaves. Leaves contain high amounts of phosphorus that promotes algae growth in local lakes and ponds. Just 5 bags of leaves have enough phosphorus to produce 300 pounds of algae. Leaves can be disposed of in compost piles, by dropping off at composting facilities, or through your trash hauler depending on their company policies. For more information, see <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/FoodYardWaste/Residents/Pages/compost-sites.aspx>.

- Consider planting. You can often get deals on plants this time of year with decent survivability rates. Fall is actually the best time to seed grass and water saving native plants. Visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) to find out how to incorporate plants native to Minnesota in your yard.
- If you are going to fertilize, fall is the time to do it. Fertilizing in the fall before the ground is frozen promotes healthy root growth in your lawn. Be sure to use a zero phosphorus fertilizer (middle number is zero) unless you are establishing a new lawn or a soil test has indicated a phosphorus deficiency - applying phosphorus fertilizer to lawns that have sufficient phosphorus is illegal in Minnesota. Remember, fertilizing is optional as long as your lawn doesn't have patchy bare spots, you may be able to avoid it all together. Fertilizing too much or at the wrong time can negatively impact water resources, be a waste of money, and lead to more mowing. For information on soil tests, see <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>. For more information on the phosphorus fertilizer law, see <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/phoslaw>.
- Store rainbarrels. Water that freezes in your rainbarrel can damage it. One simple method is to place the empty barrel upside down so water cannot collect over winter.

To learn more about fall yard care, view the Blue Thumb Year-Round Guide to Yard Care at <http://www.blue-thumb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Blue-Thumb-guide-to-yard-care.pdf>. For more Apple Valley Natural Resources information, call **952-953-2462**.





### **PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH**

There are over 1500 registered dogs in Apple Valley making daily use of yards and parks to complete their daily business – that’s one big pile of poo! Please be mindful of your neighbors, and pick up after your four legged friend. Old grocery, sandwich, and bread bags are easy to take with you when you walk your dog, and park garbage cans make disposal convenient. Nobody wants to jump in a pile of leaves that has had your dog’s piles deposited in it.

### **BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT - DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD**

Sure, all of us enjoy a good campfire, but you can end up spreading tree diseases to new areas if you bring your firewood with you. Pests like emerald ash borer and insects that carry Dutch elm disease and oak wilt can hitch a ride in firewood, increasing the rate and extent of spread.

The spread of tree diseases by firewood is happening locally. In 2014, emerald ash borer was found for the first time in Dakota County in Lebanon Hills Park. The site of the infestation was in a public campground; it is likely that the pest was brought to Dakota County in firewood.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Certified Firewood Vendors can be found on this website <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/firewood/firewooddealers.aspx>; and, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Approved Firewood Vendors can be found on this website that Buy firewood from an approved vendor <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewood/types.html>. Remember, burn it where you buy it.

### **NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE SURE YOUR TREE IS PROTECTED FROM WINTER CONDITIONS**

New trees and shrubs are often more susceptible to damage during the winter. Consider taking the following steps to protect your tree this winter:

1. Wrap trunks to protect from abrasion and the freeze thaw cycle
2. Install hardware cloth around trees that are susceptible to deer rubs or other animal damage
3. Wrap evergreens susceptible to sun damage in burlap
4. Water your trees in the fall
5. Avoid pruning trees to reduce risk of disease in the winter

Other advice on how to protect your trees in winter can be found at <https://myminnesotawoods.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/wickedwinters2.pdf>; or, you can contact Apple Valley Natural Resources at **952-953-2463**.

### **CONSIDER LEAVING DRIED VEGETATION IN YOUR GARDEN OVER THE WINTER FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT**

It is very tempting in the fall to start removing dried vegetation and “cleanup” before winter sets in. The cleanup process can leave some creatures in the lurch. Habitat needs continue even when the landscape transitions to the grays, whites, and browns of winter. A mason bee makes use of the hollow stems of the Spotted Joe Pye Weed plant to overwinter, a Leonard’s Skipper caterpillar hibernates in the dried remains of Little Bluestem, and gold finch enjoy snacking on Black-eyed Susan seeds. Give our pollinators and overwintering birds a hand by leaving some of your dried garden vegetation standing during the winter. Who knows? You may like how it adds texture and contrast to the winter landscape.

## SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

### WHERE DOES THE WASTEWATER GO?

The faucet is turned on; the toilet is flushed . . . Wastewater leaves the house and flows by gravity through a service line that connects to the City sanitary sewer main system until it reaches a lift station. Here pumps lift the wastewater to a level where it can once again flow by gravity to the wastewater treatment plant. Most of Apple Valley's sanitary sewer flows to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant in Farmington, but some flows into Burnsville and Egan.

### What part of the sanitary sewer system is the homeowner responsible for?

The homeowner is responsible for any blockage in the service line between the home and the City sanitary sewer main. This includes debris and tree roots. The homeowner is responsible for any repairs on the service line from the home to, and including, the connection at the property line. The City is only responsible for defects within the public road right of way.

### What can cause blockages in sanitary sewer lines?

Roots, grease, and improper disposal of items are the main causes of sewer line blockages. **TREE ROOTS** can enter the sanitary sewer system at joints and cracks in the sewer lines. **GREASE** can solidify in the sewer lines and restrict other waste from flowing through. Never flush or dump grease down the drain. **WIPES**, even those marketed as flushable should never be disposed of by flushing. Sewer pipes can be blocked by disposable wipes and towelettes, feminine hygiene products, disposable diapers, washing machine lint, or any items flushed down the drain or the toilet. Toys, clothing, lumber, rocks, asphalt, rope, and wire have been found in the collection system.

### SEWER AND WATER EMERGENCIES

In the event of a sewer or water emergency, please use the following contact numbers.

952-953-2400 (Public Works)

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

952-322-2323 (Dakota Communication Center)

After hours, weekends and holidays

## CITY STREETS



### SWEEPING THE STREETS

Each fall street sweeping begins around area lakes and then progresses throughout the City during the next few weeks as weather permits. Fall sweeping reduces the potential for street flooding and keeps much debris out of storm sewers and holding ponds, improving water quality.

Residents can help by removing leaves and debris from the boulevard, curb line and nearby catch basins. Leaves and debris washed into catch basins during fall rains can plug storm drains and cause street flooding. In order to protect the storm water system, residents may not rake leaves and yard waste into the street.

### STREET LIGHT REPAIR

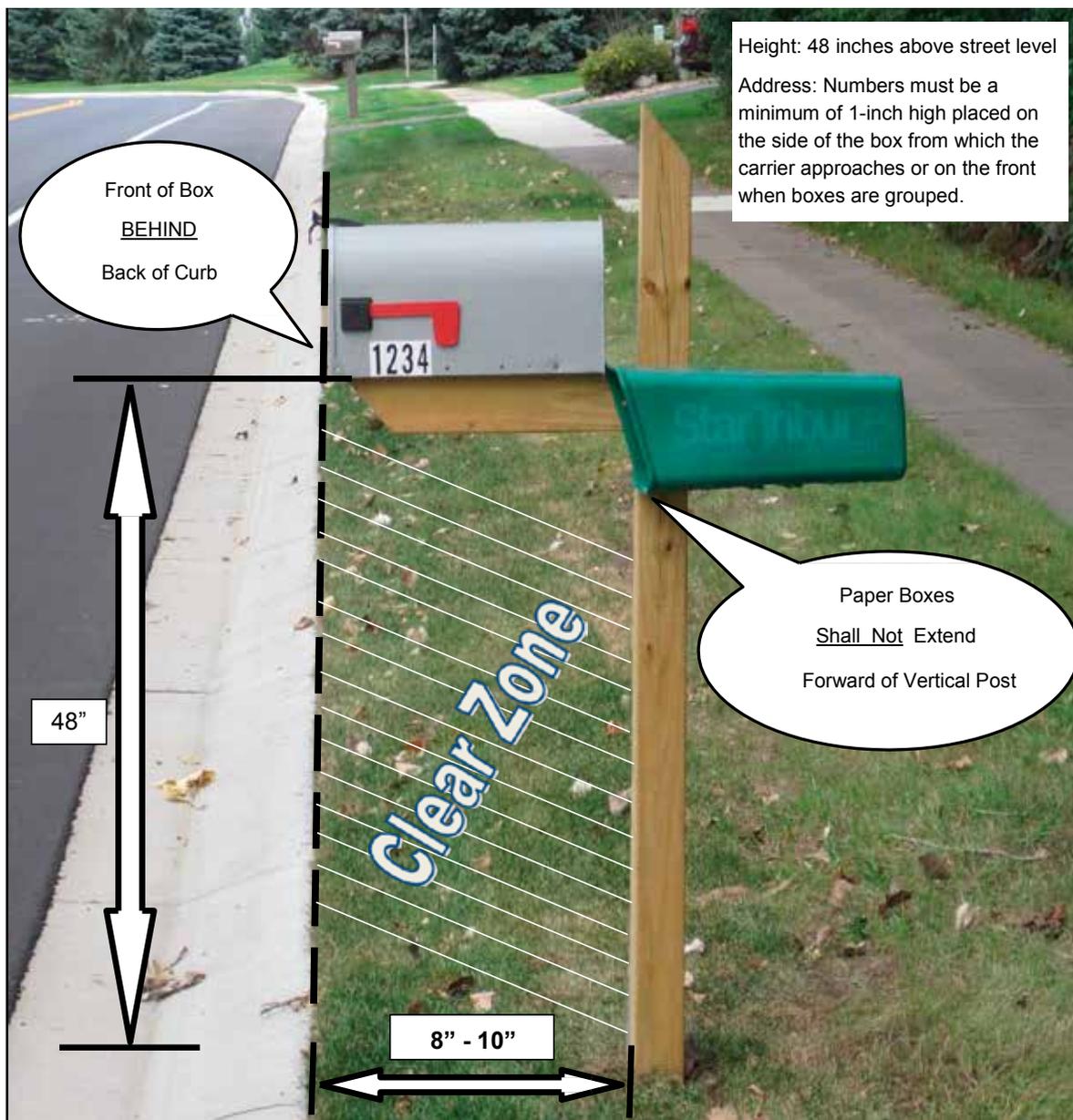
Is there a burned out street light in your neighborhood? If so, contact Dakota Electric at **651-463-6287** or [www.dakotaelectric.com/residential/service\\_requests/streetlights](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/residential/service_requests/streetlights). If possible, note the identification number found at eye level on the pole. With this number, Dakota Electric can find the pole's exact location. If you do not know the pole number, please provide the closest address or cross streets. In addition to replacing burned out bulbs, Dakota Electric repairs broken globes and adjusts the sensitivity of the light sensors.



### MAILBOX MAINTENANCE CHECK

The Public Works Department encourages residents to inspect their mailboxes now and make necessary repairs to ensure the mailbox can withstand the winter plowing season when snow is pushed up against the posts and boxes on the boulevards. Make sure the post is sturdy enough to withstand heavy snows coming off of the plow.

Apple Valley's mailbox repair policy provides that the City will repair or replace a mailbox if it is hit by the plow. However, the City will not repair or replace any additional items that may be attached to the mailbox post. These include, but are not limited to newspaper boxes, planters, flags, or decorative items. The City will not be responsible for repairs if the mailbox or attachments are damaged due to snow discharge or snow storage. Mailbox damage should be reported as soon as the damage is discovered. Damage from the current plowing season must be reported to the Public Works Department by May 1.



Height: 48 inches above street level  
 Address: Numbers must be a minimum of 1-inch high placed on the side of the box from which the carrier approaches or on the front when boxes are grouped.

Residents should also check for the proper installation height and placement of their mailbox. Details regarding the policy and mailbox installation standards are available on the City's website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

Paper Boxes  
 Shall Not Extend  
 Forward of Vertical Post

## APPLE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT 101

In celebration of our 50th year of service in 2016, the newsletter articles this year have been focused on sharing the history and development of the Apple Valley Fire Department. Following that theme, this article has been created to answer some of the specific questions that are frequently asked about the Apple Valley Fire Department.



### What does Volunteer Paid-on-Call mean?

Since its beginning as Lebanon Fire Department in 1966, what is now the Apple Valley Fire Department has always been a volunteer paid-on-call fire department. Do you know what it means to be a volunteer firefighter? While the term volunteer is often understood to mean that a person gives of their time for no compensation, it can also be defined as someone who does something without being forced to do it.

The Apple Valley firefighter is a volunteer in that they are not forced or required to join or provide service as a firefighter for the City. People choose to apply to become a firefighter because they want to be a part of an organization that provides such an important and helpful service to their community. The paid-on-call part of the position description means that firefighters are on-call to provide needed services and that they will receive financial compensation for those times that they do respond or are in required training. Throughout their career with the Apple Valley Fire Department, firefighters will continue the rich tradition of true volunteerism through extensive involvement in the community by way of assisting and supporting a wide variety of organizations and events and taking many opportunities to bring public fire safety education and awareness to those we serve.

### Are there Firefighters in the fire stations at all times?

In general, Apple Valley firefighters are only at the stations when responding to emergency calls and for training drills. Additional station use would include meetings with the Fire Explorers group, set up and familiarization with new apparatus and equipment, and safety education tours. If you need the services provided by the fire department, you should call 9-1-1. For administrative questions, call **952-953-2600** Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**What is the Fire Explorers group and what do they do?** The Apple Valley Fire Department has hosted an Explorer Post since 1994. This group, part of the Northern Star Council Learning for Life's program for young men and women, provides an excellent opportunity for youth aged 14 through 20 to volunteer their time and talents to their community while learning new skills. Explorers do not get called to emergency scenes or fight fires, but experienced firefighters work closely with these youth, teaching them about the fire service and exposing them to Search and Rescue, Ladder Techniques, Gear Donning, Vehicle Extrication, and more. Explorers also enjoy helping out with community events like Booya, the 4th of July activities, and public safety education events. Call **952-953-2600** to learn more about the Fire Explorers group of the Apple Valley Fire Department.

### What type of public safety education is available?

The firefighters enjoy opportunities when they can teach others about smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), and fire extinguishers. They know it is important for people to know how to use these life-saving items to keep themselves and those around them as safe as possible. As senior housing continues to grow in Apple Valley, it is important that independent residents know how to practice fire and life safety in these multi-family buildings that they may be living in for the first time in their lives. Children are thirsty for the knowledge the firefighter can provide to them and feel great responsibility in helping keep their family safe by blowing out candles, reminding adults to change detector batteries, and practicing escaping from their homes in the event of a fire. Requests for safety education, station tours, or other specific life safety training can be made at **952-953-2609**.



**How often does the Fire Department remove snow from the hydrants in my neighborhood?**

The Fire Department does not remove snow from fire hydrants unless needed when called to a fire. As a volunteer department, there is not staff available to travel around the city seeking buried hydrants to uncover. It is important that neighborhoods maintain three foot clearance around their hydrants so that if an unfortunate fire event happens, the firefighters do not have to spend any time digging out snow so they can connect their hoses and begin flowing the water they need to fight the fire. Fire grows very quickly and every second spent digging out a snow-covered hydrant is a second not spent putting out the fire. Fifth grade students in our district are invited to participate in the "Adopt A Hydrant" program each year where they provide a written commitment to keep the hydrants in their neighborhoods clear from snow. It's been a true pleasure to learn that some of these students and their families, as well as other community minded residents, expand that commitment to include hydrants in senior housing neighborhoods where shoveling is more difficult for the residents. Apple Valley residents are great at helping each other out!



**When is Night to Unite?**

Tuesday, August 2nd is 2016's Night to Unite event. The Apple Valley Police Department takes reservations for all the neighborhood parties and then coordinates with the Apple Valley Fire Department, Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, City Council members, and McGruff the Crime Dog to stop by as many parties as possible to meet the residents. The Fire Department shares fire safety information with the adults and gives brief fire truck tours to the children.

**Have more questions about the Apple Valley Fire Department?**

Don't hesitate to call us at **952-953-2600** or send your question by email to [fire@applevalleyfire.org](mailto:fire@applevalleyfire.org).



**Does 9-1-1 get answered by a firefighter?**

9-1-1 calls are answered by trained dispatchers at the Dakota Communication Center. Depending on the call type, the dispatchers have protocols in place that ensures the proper response is sent. Dispatcher education and in-depth planning by the local police, fire and emergency medical teams mean that the right people with the right equipment will be on the scene as quickly as possible.

