

CityNews



SPRING 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

Your Quality Neighborhood Checklist

- ☑ **MOWING:** Your first reminder for the new year. Grass and weeds must be maintained below 8 inches in height during spring, summer and fall seasons.
- ☑ **OUTDOOR STORAGE:** Outdoor storage of discarded or unused machinery, household appliances, furniture, automobile bodies, or any other similar accumulating material is not allowed.
- ☑ **GARBAGE:** Garbage and Recycle pick up is curbside in containers provided by your hauler. Storage of containers should be inside a garage or shed, the rear of the property, or may be on the sideyard, if those locations are screened from the street and adjoining neighbors' view. At no time should containers be stored in front of the house or left at the curb.
- ☑ **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** The exterior of any building, structure or accessory structure shall be maintained in good repair, free from peeling or flaking paint, holes, breaks, loose, missing, or rotting materials and free from deterioration.
- ☑ **RESIDENTIAL PARKING:** Any off-street area to be utilized for residential parking must be on an established driveway of paved concrete, asphalt, or similar surface. Parking on grass, gravel, dirt, class #5 aggregate, etc., is not permitted. Parking on the street is prohibited between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily year-round.
- ☑ **RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS:** Dogs are to be licensed and must be leashed while outdoors. Pet waste deposited on your own property as well as public and other private property must be picked up when deposited.
- ☑ **RECREATIONAL VEHICLES:** Recreational vehicles (boats, trailers, pop-up campers, toppers, etc.) should be parked on the driveway, side or rear of the property and may not be parked on the front lawn. Boats with inboard or outboard motors may be stored in a garage or shed or on a paved/ concrete surface unless the motor is removed from the boat. Recreational vehicles must not block sidewalks.
- ☑ **RIGHT-OF-WAY OBSTRUCTIONS:** Obstructions and/or Excavation in Public Right-of-Way or grounds. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or make any obstruction or to excavate within a public right-of-way or public grounds without first obtaining a permit from the City. Basketball hoops are only allowed at the curb area while during the time of play. Portable hoops not in current use must be placed a minimum of 13 feet back from the right-of-way (curb line) area. Permanent installation should also be 13 feet back.
- ☑ **SEASONAL WATERING BAN:** Water restrictions will be enforced beginning May 1st through Sept 30th. No lawn watering is allowed between 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including weekends, which applies to all residential, business and commercial property receiving municipal services or water from private wells, ponds and lakes.
- ☑ **CODE CONCERNS:** Contact Code Enforcement at (952) 953-2570 with any questions or concerns.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #419
St. Paul MN 55124

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER

Mayor:
Mary Hamann-Roland

Councilmembers:
John M. Bergman
Thomas C. Goodwin
Ruth A. Grendahl
Clint Hooppaw

eUtility Billing NOW AVAILABLE!

With Apple Valley's eUtility Billing option, you are now able to:

- Make payments any time of the day
- View billing and payment history online
- View water consumption history online
- Receive an electronic copy of your bill instead of a paper copy



Register today! Go to www.cityofapplevalley.org and click on "eUtility Billing" to get started

Water Quality Grants and Workshops

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Apple Valley Gardening Grants

Residents of Apple Valley can help improve neighborhood water quality by installing raingardens and native plant shoreline stabilizations (buffers). Through the Water Quality Improvement Cost Share Program, qualifying projects may be eligible for a reimbursement of 50% to a maximum of \$500. Funding is limited, applications are competitive, and restrictions apply; so enquire early. Applications are due by May 1, 2012. Visit <http://cityofapplevalley.org> for more information.

Planting for Clean Water Workshops

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with area cities, watershed management organizations, and Dakota County will be offering "An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water." This free workshop will be held in various cities throughout Dakota County, including Apple Valley on Thursday, April 5, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The presentation will focus on native gardens, raingardens, and native plant shoreline stabilizations. Attendees will be invited to attend more in-depth design workshops later in the spring. To register for this free workshop, contact the SWCD at 651-480-7777 or visit their web site at <http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org>.

Dakota County Grant Programs

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District administers a suite of grant programs for the installation of water quality improvement projects on private property. Typical projects funded include raingardens, native plant shoreline stabilizations, and native plant gardens. Most qualifying projects receive a \$250 grant; however, higher funding amounts may be available for large projects. Attendance of "An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water" (see above paragraph) and the follow-up design workshop is required to qualify for most SWCD financial assistance programs. For more information, visit the SWCD website at <http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org>.

Rainbarrels

Save up to \$70 on a new rainbarrel. The Recycling Association of Minnesota will once again be offering rain barrels and compost bins for sale at a discounted price. Visit <http://www.recycleminnesota.org> for more information and to place your order.

Contact Information

For more information on native gardens, raingardens, and native plant shoreline stabilizations, visit www.BlueThumb.org. For more information on water quality grants and workshops, contact Natural Resources at 952-953-2462.



Natural Resources

City Tree and Shrub Sale

The annual tree and shrub sale for Apple Valley residents begins March 12, 2012. Trees and shrubs will be in bare-root form and available for pickup on Saturday, April 28, at the Central Maintenance Facility. Order forms are available at the Apple Valley Municipal Center, the Central Maintenance Facility, and on the City web site.

Tree Pruning Tips

Pruning oak and elm trees is highly discouraged after April 1 to avoid the risk of disease infections through pruning wounds. April through June is considered a high risk period for oak wilt infection. The safest period for pruning oak and elm trees is late-fall until April 1. Tree wound dressings and pruning paints should be used to cover fresh wounds on oaks and elms between April 1 and late fall for disease prevention. Honeylocust, mountain ash, and fruit trees are susceptible to disease infection through wounds made during the growing season, and should be pruned only when extended dry weather conditions are expected.

Volunteers Wanted

You can help monitor wetlands as a member of the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). Participants work together as a City team to collect and identify samples from Apple Valley wetlands. Volunteers work under the direction of a trained team leader. The program takes place during May, June, and July, and includes training and field and lab work.

Storm drain stenciling is another volunteer opportunity for any interested groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4H, church, school, or a neighborhood. This project is designed to help protect our lakes, ponds, and wetlands by painting a message next to storm drains stating the drain goes to a lake and dumping into storm drains has a negative impact on lakes, ponds, wetlands and wildlife. Stenciling materials are provided.

For more information, please contact Natural Resources at 952-953-2460.

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 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

952-322-2323 (Dakota Communication Center)

After hours, weekends and holidays

Sanitary Sewer Cleaning

Routine sanitary sewer cleaning and maintenance is done on approximately 60 miles of sewer lines annually. A map of areas to be cleaned is posted on the City web site, www.cityofapplevalley.org. Remember to keep the toilet lid down when cleaning operations are being done in your neighborhood. During cleaning operations, air can vent into a home through the sanitary sewer service line and ventilation system. A blockage in the sanitary sewer ventilation system can cause water in the toilet to bubble or splash out of the bowl.



Sump Pump Basics

Many homes have sump pumps to capture and remove groundwater that would otherwise result in a damp basement. These trusty devices rattle along year after year doing an under-appreciated job and demand little in terms of daily maintenance. A sump pump never earns the same level of respect as the more glamorous appliances in your home. However, some attention is necessary to avoid problems. Please consider the following tips if your home has a sump pump.

Tip 1 – The Preseason Check: If your sump pump does not run during winter, you should perform a test run before April showers bring May flowers (and a wet basement). Fill the sump pit with some water to make sure the pump is working properly. Perform a visual check that the pump is actually discharging water, as a faulty pump can run without pumping any water. Listen for strange noises coming from the pump motor. Stop listening if the pump frightens you, and call a plumber.

Tip 2 – Please Don't Break the Rules: Sump pumps must discharge to the outside of your home and not into the sanitary sewer. When a sump pump is connected to a sanitary sewer line, it is called a cross connection. Often, this is a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. Water that goes down any drain in your house leads to the sanitary sewer system and eventually ends up at a wastewater treatment plant. The City is billed for every gallon of water that is discharged to the wastewater plant. The extra cost of sump pump water must be charged back to all customers in the City.

Tip 3 – Proper Sump Hose Etiquette: Perform a visual inspection of the discharge hose. The sump pump should discharge water out into your lawn. Use this quasi-free water for lawn irrigation. If your pump is simply discharging directly at the outer house wall, you are likely just pumping water in a continuous circle as it seeps back down under the basement. Please don't extend hoses across public sidewalks or trails. Be a good neighbor and avoid discharging water into adjacent property.

If you have questions related to sump pumps, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 952-953-2400.

Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department conducts fire hydrant flushing every spring. The tentative start date for flushing hydrants is Monday, April 2, depending upon weather. When the actual date is determined, it will be posted on the City's website, www.cityofapplevalley.org. Hydrant flushing will take place Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for approximately four weeks. There is a possibility that some residents could receive rust-colored water for a brief period when crews are performing flushing in your neighborhood. 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.

Spring Street Sweeping

Spring is upon us. That means it's time for the Public Works Department to clean up the sand and road debris accumulation from winter. Spring road cleanup usually begins after March 15, depending upon the weather. Areas near lakes will be swept first, followed by residential neighborhoods. This operation is typically completed by April 15. Due to the presence of snow and ice in some locations during the first round, a second round is usually necessary.

The City is asking that any material on the boulevard be cleaned up and disposed of by the property owner through the trash hauler or composted on the property. Early spring rains wash organic matter, such as grass, decomposed leaves, and twigs, as well as sand into catch basins and storm ponds. This leads to nuisance weeds, algal bloom, and sand deltas in City ponds and lakes. Thank you for being environmentally friendly and assisting the City in protecting our ponds and lakes. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 952-953-2400.

Preventing Fires in Your Clothes Dryer

- Clean the lint filter regularly and make sure the dryer is operating properly. Clean the filter after each load of clothes. While the dryer is operating, check the outside exhaust to make sure the exhaust air is escaping normally. If it is not, turn the dryer off and look inside both ends of the exhaust duct for blockages (possibly excess lint) and remove any found. If there are any signs that your dryers operating temperature is hotter than normal, this may be a sign that the dryer's temperature control thermostat is in need of replacement.
- Clothing that is still damp at the end of a normal drying cycle or requires longer drying times than usual, could be an indication of a blockage in the exhaust duct, lint screen, or something in need of repair.
- Plastic flexible exhaust ducts are more prone to trapping lint and causing clogs. They are also more susceptible to being kinked or crushed which will result in greatly reduced air flow. When using a flexible exhaust duct special care should be taken to ensure they are cleaned more frequently and not damaged or crushed.
- Please follow all the manufacturer's instructions closely for new dryer and exhaust duct installations. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or flexible metal duct to provide the least resistance for air flow.



Grilling Safety Tips

- Charcoal grills should never be used in enclosed places, even if ventilation is provided, as they can produce toxic gasses such as carbon monoxide (CO) which can be harmful. Never place ashes into plastic garbage cans, paper bags, or other combustible containers after using a grill. Ashes can stay hot and smolder for up to three days. Ashes should be placed in metal containers and extinguished with water prior to disposal.
- Gas grills should be used at least 10 feet from the home or other combustible structure. Burner tubes should be checked for proper operation by ensuring there are no blockages; insects, food, or grease can commonly block burner tubes creating an unsafe condition or the uneven cooking of food. The hoses that run from the propane cylinder to the grill should frequently be inspected for signs of cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. If there are any signs of a gas leak (smell of gas, hissing, etc...) turn off the propane tank immediately and do not use the grill until repairs have been made. Propane cylinders should not be left in direct sunlight as they may overheat, building excess pressure and creating an unsafe condition.

Fire Hydrant Access

- The City of Apple Valley and the Fire Department ask that you ensure appropriate fire hydrant access in your neighborhood. Fire code states; **508.5.4** Obstruction. Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage, and other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire protection system control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernible. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants. **508.5.5** Clear space around hydrants. A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved. Thank you.

Wood Burning Fireplaces

- Spring is a great time to clean your fireplace chimneys after they have been used all winter long. Creosote can build up in a chimney with frequent fireplace use and can cause an unsafe condition. Annual chimney cleaning, depending on usage and type of wood burned, is the best practice.

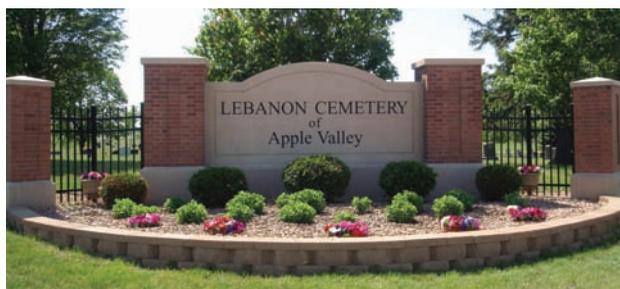
Citizen's Police Academy - 2012

This spring, the Apple Valley Police Department will again host a Citizen's Police Academy. The Academy will meet one evening a week starting on Tuesday, April 3 and running through Tuesday, May 29, 2012. There are no fees associated with the Academy. Limited registration is open to anyone over the age of 18 who either lives or works in Apple Valley and has not attended an Apple Valley Citizens Academy within the last 5 years. Criminal background checks will be conducted on all applicants.

The Academy provides an inside look at the operation and services provided by the Apple Valley Police Department. Topics for the nine-week course will include DUI enforcement, routine traffic stops, use of force, the judicial process, police investigations, K-9, the Dakota County Drug Task Force, and also includes a look at the Dakota Communications Center plus much more. Interactive sessions allow for some hands-on experience in the area of Law Enforcement

For more information on the Citizen's Academy, please contact the Apple Valley Police Department at 952-953-2706. To register visit the City's web site at www.cityofapplevalley.org. Click on Citizen's Academy on the Police home page which will take you to the registration form.

Historic Lebanon Cemetery



A visible part of Apple Valley's history is Lebanon Cemetery. It was established in 1863 at the time of the Civil War when the area was known as Lebanon Township. The original two-acre

site on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road was purchased to serve the burial needs of the community. The earliest recorded burial was May 25, 1861.

For 135 years, Lebanon Cemetery was owned by those who owned a grave site. It was managed and operated by a small volunteer Board of Trustees who, with limited resources from the sale of grave lots, maintained the cemetery as a public service.

After the area became Apple Valley, many of the area citizens were choosing Lebanon as their final resting place. This historic cemetery needed additional space and a major upgrade if it was to continue to serve the community. The Board of Trustees realized the cemetery could not meet the community's needs without additional resources and voted to offer the cemetery to the City of Apple Valley in return for City perpetual care and expansion.

In May of 1997, Apple Valley voters approved acquisition of the cemetery and a bond referendum to obtain an additional eight acres of land. A master design and development plan was drafted. Transfer of the original two acres of the cemetery was made to the City in December 1998, and the additional land was purchased.

Many citizens who helped develop Apple Valley are buried in Lebanon Cemetery. If you visit the cemetery, you can see some familiar names on the monuments and markers. The cemetery is open every day from sunrise to sunset.

If you would like information about Lebanon Cemetery, please visit www.cityofapplevalley.org, email pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us, or call 952-953-2500. Staff would be pleased to assist you.

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 regulations related to the placement of signs in city right-of-way and city property. The rules apply to political campaign signs for all candidates, regardless of whether they are seeking school, city, county, state or federal 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
- Public right-of-way for City Municipal State Aid Streets
- Property owned by the City of Apple Valley

A map showing all of the affected streets can be found at www.cityofapplevalley.org

If the city finds a violation on city property or the right-of-way of city Municipal State Aid Streets, the signs will be moved to the Apple Valley Central Maintenance Facility located at 6442 140th Street. Signs may be reclaimed Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Unclaimed signs will be disposed of 60 days after removal.

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 on the Elections page of the City's website at www.cityofapplevalley.org

City Information on Channel 16

Apple Valley Government Access Community Television features useful City information on the Channel 16 Bulletin Board as part of its regular program day. The Bulletin Board lists a variety of City Meeting Schedules and Agendas, Hotline Numbers and gateway information for City Services, special announcements and events, and daily program guides.

Live, Gavel-To-Gavel, Televised Meeting Coverage

Apple Valley Government Access Channel 16 telecasts all of the City Council and Planning Commission meetings live. Meeting coverage is also replayed on a variety of days and times to provide more opportunities for citizen involvement in their local government.

The City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. In addition the meeting is replayed on Thursdays & Saturdays at 2:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m.

The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Replays are on Wednesdays at 2:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Apple Valley Programs On CH. 16:

"Valley Beat" and "Hook & Ladder" share information about, give a look inside, and highlight the excellent work and members of the Police and Fire Departments in Apple Valley. Six new episodes of each program are produced annually.

Valley Beat:

Sunday.....	8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Monday.....	1:00 a.m.
Tuesday.....	8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....	1:00 a.m.
Thursday.....	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Friday.....	1:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Apple Valley Hook & Ladder:

Sunday.....	8:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Monday.....	1:30 a.m.
Tuesday.....	8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....	1:30 a.m.
Thursday.....	8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Friday.....	1:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Programs and telecast times are also listed on the Channel 16 Bulletin Board Program Guide, and the City Web site at: www.cityofapplevalley.org