

# CityNews



WINTER 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## SNOW & ICE CONTROL



### Plowing Website

The City's website, [cityofapplevalley.org](http://cityofapplevalley.org), is your source for news on snow and ice control. At your convenience, you can access current operations, plowing procedures, and related topics. Updates on snow plowing operations are posted under Timely Topics on the home page. To sign up to receive email and text messages when an update is posted, go to Email Updates on the home page.

### Plowing Facts

City streets are cleared of snow by Public Works crews. For a full snow plowing operation, 30 pieces of equipment are utilized. Usually all 173 miles of City streets and 330 cul-de-sacs are cleared within 10 to 12 hours after the snow stops falling.

### Sod Damage

The City will repair/replace sod damaged by City snowplows. Damage from the current plowing season must be reported to the Public Works Department by May 1. The City will not repair/replace sod damaged due to the application of sand, salt, or other deicing chemicals.

### Mailbox Damage

Mailboxes installed and maintained to Postal specifications which are damaged as a result of direct contact by City snow removal equipment will be temporarily repaired within 48 hours of receiving notification of such damage or a portable mailbox will be set in place so mail service will be continued. The City will replace the

damaged mailbox structure the following spring with a standard No. 1 black, white, or silver mailbox mounted on a 4 x 4 inch treated post. Residents may request reimbursement with prior approval to replace the mailbox structures themselves, relieving the City of any further obligation. In such cases, the City will provide portable, temporary mailboxes until the following spring.

Mailboxes that are not installed to City and Postal specifications or are damaged due to snow deposited from plows (versus being hit by City snow removal equipment) will not be replaced. The City is not responsible for damage to media or paper boxes and will not repair them. Mailbox damage from the current plowing season must be reported to the Public Works Department by May 1.

### Other Damage

All other damage within the public right-of-way, which extends approximately 13 feet beyond the curb, is the responsibility of the property owner including but not limited to trees, shrubs, bushes, landscaping materials, decorative rock, and lawn/landscaping irrigation systems.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Removing snow and ice is a time-consuming and dangerous job. To do it safely and efficiently, we need the cooperation and assistance of our residents. You can help by following these guidelines:

- Please do not park your vehicle on the street after a snowfall of two inches or more until the street has been cleared curb to curb.
- Please do not park your vehicle on the street any day between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., regardless of the weather. This restriction is in effect all year.

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

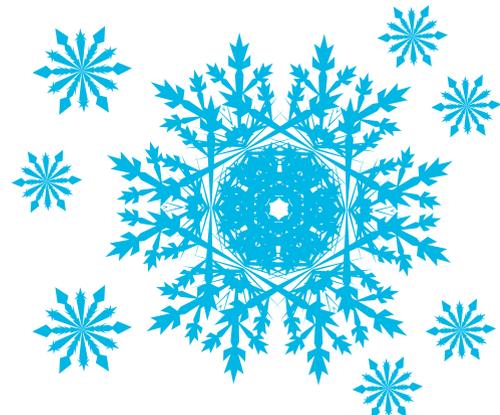
ECRWSS  
RESIDENTIAL  
CUSTOMER

### Mayor:

Mary Hamann-Roland

### Council Members:

John Bergman  
Thomas Goodwin  
Ruth Grendahl  
Clint Hooppaw



## 2014 CITY BUDGET ADDRESSES FUTURE STREET MAINTENANCE

The Apple Valley City Council has approved a preliminary property tax levy that sets in motion the strategy to finance the ongoing street maintenance program and the City's upcoming street reconstruction needs. Street surfaces require significant maintenance investment over time to maintain their condition and prevent significant deterioration. Eventually, streets reach an age at which reconstruction is necessary. Last year, the City Council considered a number of options to fund these upcoming street reconstruction projects. A common practice in many other Metro area communities is to levy special assessments on the abutting benefiting property owners, often resulting in charges exceeding \$5,000 to the property owner at the time of construction. The City Council chose a policy that would avoid special assessments for street maintenance.

Instead, the City Council chose to fund these annual Street Maintenance costs through an ongoing annual property tax levy, avoiding the need to levy additional special assessments for these costs. For 2014, 12.6% of the property tax levy is directed to the Street Maintenance Program.

### Preliminary Budget Objectives

In light of the current economic climate, the City Council's overall 2014 budget goal was to meet the City's needs while minimizing the impacts on property taxpayers. The preliminary 2014 budget reflects this goal while accomplishing a number of important objectives:

- The City's portion of the property taxes on the median valued home will increase by 1.1% (\$10).
- City property taxes will be lower than in 2009 when the 2008 voter approved park bond levy began.
- The 2014 levy continues the strategy to fund the annual street maintenance program by redirecting an existing park bond levy, avoiding the need for special assessments on property owners.

### State Aids

Recent news reports included information about significant changes to the State's Local Government Aid (LGA) distribution formula for 2014. The State's distribution of LGA to cities will total \$506 million in 2014, an \$80 million increase over the 2013 level. Unfortunately, the City of Apple Valley still will not receive LGA from the State. Even with the changes made to the distribution formula, our revenue realized is still zero.

### Sales Tax Exemption for Local Governments

Starting with 2014, the State has some purchases made by cities exempt from sales tax. The sales tax exemption applies to general government purchases except for purchases made for the operations of the Senior Center, Community Center, Ice Arena, Cable TV, Golf Course, Liquor Stores in addition to the City's purchase of vehicles. The total estimated savings the city will experience is \$245,000 and approximately \$140,000 will be experienced in operations funded by property taxes.

### Proposed Property Tax Levy

To support the proposed 2014 budget requires a total levy of \$22,727,000, an increase of \$316,054 or 1.41%. Within the levy, the annual street maintenance program funding increases by \$100,000 and the total levy for debt service increases \$21,128. Consistent with the prior year, the levy for the 2012 refunding park bond will be paid for from reserves in the Future Capital Projects Fund.

The table below shows a comparison of the property tax levy for the past three years. Note that the levy for the street maintenance program increases to \$2,855,000 in 2014. The street maintenance program represents 12.6% of the 2014 property tax levy. The tax impact of the annual street maintenance program levy is approximately \$96 for the median value home. With the 2014 preliminary property tax levy \$316,054 higher than 2013, the City portion of the tax bill for the median valued home (which experienced a market value increase of 3.28%) is expected to rise from \$854 to \$864, approximately \$10. This reflects the overall increase in the levy of 1.4% and approximates the growth and inflation experienced in the past year.

### General Fund Budget at a Glance

	2013 <i>(final)</i>	2014 <i>(prelim)</i>
<b>Median Value Home</b>	186,000	192,100
<b>Median Residential MV Increase</b> <i>(decrease)</i>	<b>(5.88%)</b>	3.28%
<b>Overall Taxable Market Value (MV) Increase</b>	<b>(6.2%)</b>	2.7%
<b>Levy Increase</b>	1.8%	1.4%
<b>City portion of Property Taxes on Median Value Home</b>	\$854	\$864
<b>% increase City taxes for median value home</b>	<b>(1.7%)</b> <b>(\$10)</b>	1.1% \$10
<b>General Fund Expenditure increase</b>	1.4%	1.4%
<b>Estimated General Fund Savings for Sales Tax Exemption</b>	n/a	\$140,000
<b>Transfer from Liquor Stores</b>	\$525,000	\$600,000

Levy Component	2012	2013	2014	Change <i>(2013 to 2014)</i>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$18,297,000	\$18,364,570	\$18,559,497	\$194,926
<b>Street Maintenance Program</b>	\$1,675,000	\$2,755,000	\$2,855,000	\$100,000
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$2,053,249	\$1,291,376	\$1,312,504	\$21,128
<b>Total</b>	\$22,025,249	\$22,410,946	\$22,727,000	\$316,054

### Tax Dollars paid in City taxes lower than 2009

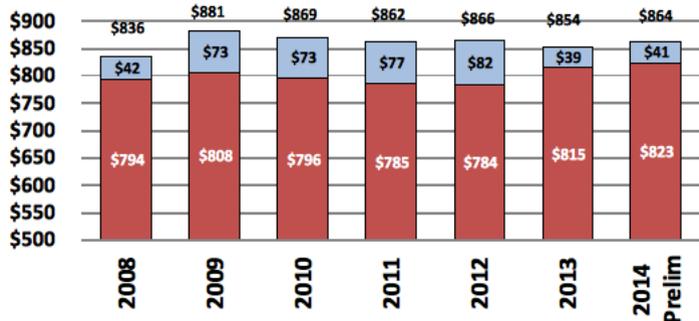
The median valued home of \$192,100 experiencing the median 3.28 percent increase in value would pay approximately \$10, or about 1.1%, more in 2013. The City taxes on this median value home are \$864 and are still lower than in 2009 when the 2008 park bond levies began. The estimated tax amount of \$864 includes \$116 in taxes to support the street maintenance program. Again, the objective in including the annual street maintenance program in the levy was to avoid the burden of special assessments for street improvements on the property owners. The trade-off for funding the program through the property tax levy and not using special assessments is that the City of Apple Valley's property tax rate will be higher than other communities.

### How are the City tax dollars used?

The median valued home has a total monthly City tax bill of \$72 for 2014. Of that total, \$60.36 (83.8 percent) is for general City operations, \$7.97 (11.1 percent) is for the support of the Annual Street Maintenance Program, and \$3.67 (5.1 percent) is for the total debt service needs of the City. The checkbook image below shows the breakdown of the \$60.36 City operations portion by department function. Of the total, \$22.18 covers the operations of the police department, \$9.43 is for public works which includes snow plowing, road maintenance and vehicle/equipment maintenance, and \$11.68 supports parks and recreation. The remaining \$17.07 (23.7 percent) represents the remaining department budgets and other unallocated costs.

The services the City of Apple Valley provides are necessary, essential, and quite diverse. In Apple Valley, resources are leveraged, services are efficient and economical, and we stand accountable for the product we deliver at the low-cost prices we have come to expect, typically take for granted, and rely on daily.

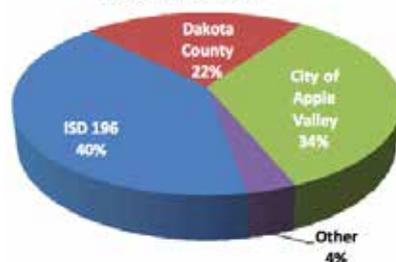
2014 Property Taxes Remain at Lowest Level since 2009



### The City of Apple Valley makes up 34% of your property tax bill

While the City of Apple Valley strives to lessen the impacts on property owners, the City has no control over levy decisions by other government entities serving Apple Valley. So while the City's portion of the taxes may go up slightly or go down, Apple Valley officials cannot guarantee the same will be true for a property owner's overall tax bill.

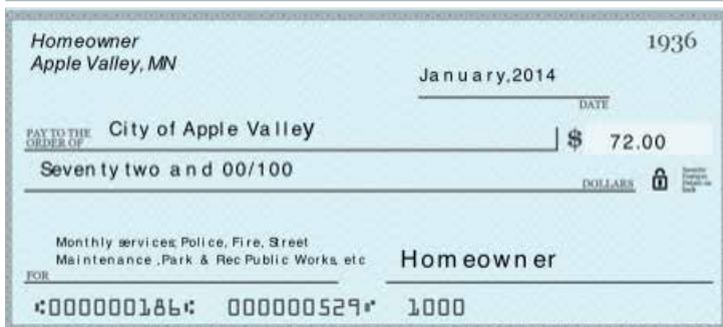
Property Tax Distribution for an Average Apple Valley Home



Everyone is invited to attend the City's Truth in Taxation Hearing that will be held December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Apple Valley City Hall. For more information visit the City's website at [www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us)

### Tax Dollar Allocation

Description	% of total	\$ of Levy
Police	30.8%	\$22.18
Park and Recreation	16.2%	11.68
Public Works	13.1%	9.43
Annual Street Maintenance Program	11.1%	7.97
Fire	7.1%	5.09
City Council, Administration & Human Resources	6.0%	4.31
Debt Service	5.1%	3.67
Community Development & Code Enforcement	3.1%	2.26
Information Technology	2.7%	1.97
Finance	2.5%	1.77
Insurance / Contingency	1.5%	1.10
Legal Services	0.8%	0.57
<b>Total per Month</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$72.00</b>



## WATER SERVICE QUESTIONS

### Should I have the City turn off my water when I go out of town?

That depends on your preference. There is always a chance of a hose or pipe leaking in the house while you are gone. During winter months, pipes could freeze if water is not turned off.

### Is there a charge to have the City turn the water off?

There is no charge to turn your water off. However, there is a \$32 charge to have water service restored. The fee will appear on the first billing received following your return. Please note that you will continue to be billed for base services while your water is off.

### What is involved in having the water service turned off by the City?

The City will turn your water on or off Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please note that property owners are required to sign a form relieving the City of any responsibility if a line was left open in the house or the service does not get turned off. The form can be picked up or mailed to you from the Billing Department or can be printed from the City website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). Please schedule with the Billing Department 24 hours in advance of required turn on/off, (952) 953-2522.

### How will I get my water bills when I am gone?

The City will send your bills to the address you currently have set up for your utility account. If you set up a temporary forwarding at the post office, your water bills should automatically be forwarded to you. If you prefer, you can call us to have bills mailed to a temporary address. The City offers the option to pay your utility bill through automatic deduction from your bank account on the due date. Call the Billing Department at (952) 953-2522 to get an enrollment form or to change your mailing address. The form also can be found on the City website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). Another option is to sign up for online services. You can make payments, receive an e-bill by email, and have access to your account online. Simply go to the website and navigate to City Services/Utility Billing to get started.

### Why do I receive letters about a problem with my meter every year while I am gone?

Public Works tracks water meters showing unusual usage patterns and sends letters when it appears the meter could be malfunctioning. No use of water is an unusual pattern. If you have your water turned off by the City, we know the reason for no usage. Otherwise, we do not and would rather send a letter and find nothing is wrong than to ignore a possible problem. If you do not have the City turn off your water when you are gone for an extended time and want to avoid receiving a letter, please notify Public Works at (952) 953-2400.

## FREE GARDENING WORKSHOPS

If you are looking for more environmentally (and wallet) friendly solutions to some of your landscape problems, we have the workshop for you. In An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water, you will learn about gardening projects that beautify your yard and help local waterbodies.

The workshop is free to Dakota County residents and will be offered evenings in spring of 2014. Check [CityofAppleValley.org](http://CityofAppleValley.org) or [www.DakotaSWCD.org](http://www.DakotaSWCD.org) for locations and times.

Attendees will be invited to workshops where they will learn more about available grants, design their gardens, and receive technical assistance. To register, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at 651-480-7777.

**Blue Thumb™** is a public/private partnership that aims to improve water quality by making it easy for residents to plan, purchase, and plant beautiful native gardens, raingardens and shorelines. Learn more by visiting [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org).

## PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH

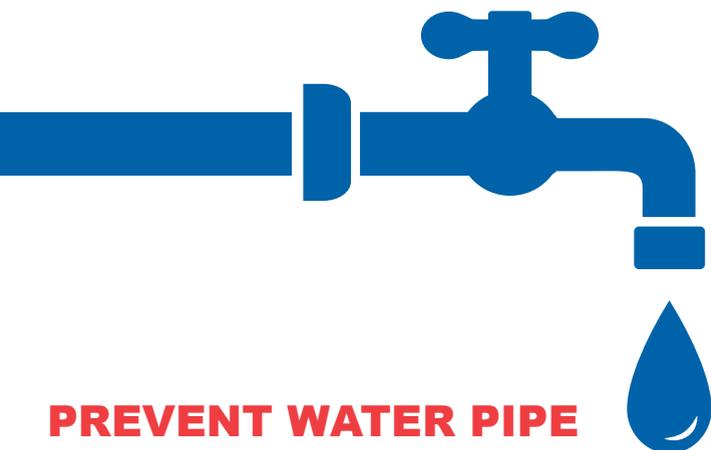
Snow. Nothing makes the landscape look cleaner and more refreshed in winter than a fresh new blanket of snow. But don't be fooled. The problem with snow? Eventually it melts. So don't be tempted. Please pick up after your dog during the winter. Take old grocery, sandwich, and bread bags with you during your walks. Public parks have garbage cans for easy disposal. We will all have a much more enjoyable spring and cleaner shoes if you pooper scoop.

## USE SALT SPARINGLY

While salt can be an effective tool for winter ice removal, it has a lasting impact on local lakes and ponds. Melt water high in salt makes its way to local waterbodies through stormdrains on the street. Once there, salt tends to stay there, harming fish and other critters that live in the water. Follow these 3 tips when removing winter snow and ice to reduce pollution:

- Remove snow promptly before ice can form.
- Use as little salt as possible to get the job done.
- Clean up spills or extra salt.

Visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) to learn more about the harmful effects of salt.



## PREVENT WATER PIPE FREEZE -UP

Each winter a number of customers experience water pipe freeze-ups. Some result in pipes bursting and damage to residences. Following are suggestions to help prevent freeze-ups.

- Turn your water supply off to outside hose bibs.
- Check heat tapes to ensure they are plugged in and working properly.
- Check the cold air intake for your furnace to ensure the cold air does not come into direct contact with the concrete floor, water meter, or pipes.
- When leaving on vacation, avoid turning your thermostat down as far as it will go. The temperature could fall too low in some areas of the home.
- Turn off the water supply line and water heater when going on extended vacations. You may also want to consider temporarily discontinuing your water service.
- If you have or are in the process of remodeling your home, make sure water pipes and the water meter are accessible and not isolated behind walls where they may be susceptible to freeze-up.
- If you are aware of a vacant or foreclosed property in your neighborhood, please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400** so we can investigate and determine if the water should be shut off to prevent water damage if the pipes freeze.



## WINTER LAKE AERATION SYSTEMS

Lake aeration systems will again be operated this winter in Alimagnet and Farquar Lakes to prevent winter fish kill. Public Works staff will monitor dissolved oxygen in each lake beginning in December when ice is safe to walk on. Aerators begin operation when dissolved oxygen levels decline to 4-5 mg/l, the point when game fish begin to be stressed. Preventing winter fish kill helps maintain a balanced predator and prey fish population, which has a positive effect on water quality.

Aeration systems operate on the concept of moving warm water from the bottom of the lake (around 39 degrees) to the surface which creates an open water area for oxygen exchange with the atmosphere.

Lake aeration systems are regulated by the Minnesota DNR and require public notice and an annual permit. Additionally, warning signs must be posted and maintained around the perimeter of the aerated area to alert lake users to the open water.

## TEEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Apple Valley Police Department will be offering its 10th annual Teen Police Academy starting Tuesday, February 4, 2014. The Academy will meet each Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. until March 18, 2014. There are no fees associated with the Academy. Limited registration is open to anyone attending high school in Apple Valley or anyone of high school age who lives in Apple Valley. 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 7-week course will include DWI enforcement, Use of Force, Dakota County MAAG Team (SWAT), property and evidence processing, crime scene investigation, Dakota County Drug Task Force, and many more. This is a perfect class for those with an interest in a law enforcement career or those who are just interested in how the Apple Valley Police Department works.

For more information on the Teen Police Academy please contact Pam Walter with the Apple Valley Police Department at 952-953-2706. Registration will open January 2, 2014 and will only be accepted online. To register, visit the City's web site at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

## GOING GREEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Did you know that the volume of trash going to the landfill spikes by 25% during the month of December? Help reduce waste with the following recycling tips:



- Wrapping paper and tissue paper aren't recyclable. Check out tips on eco-friendly gift wrapping options at [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/green-holidays](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/green-holidays).
- Unwanted packing peanuts can be taken to the County's recycling center, The Recycling Zone for free. Need packing peanuts? The Recycling Zone gives them out for reuse for free! Call them to check on availability. Contact information below.
- Holiday lights for your house and tree can be recycled once they break or you no longer want them. Bring them to The Recycling Zone for free during any of their open hours, year-round.
- If you get new electronics for the holidays (such as a computer, TV, cell phone or stereo), you can bring your old ones to The Recycling Zone to be recycled for free. They also accept small household electric items such as old coffee makers, toasters and blenders.
- Once the holidays are over, bring live greenery such as garlands, wreaths or trees to a yard waste site. Go to [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/yard-waste](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/yard-waste) for a list of sites open during the winter. Or, call your garbage hauler to find out about having your tree picked up at the curb.
- Gift-giving can create a lot of waste—so don't forget to recycle! Here's a list of what can and can't go in your recycling bin after you open those presents:

Recyclable	Not Recyclable	Maybe Recyclable*
Cardboard Boxes Greeting Cards (for musical card, bring the electronics to The Recycling Zone)	No Styrofoam No Packing Peanuts No tissue paper No wrapping paper No gift bows	Clear Plastic (such as from toys) Plastic Bags

\*Go to the recycling department's hauler directory to see if your hauler accepts these items:

[www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/haulers/apple-valley](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/haulers/apple-valley)

### The Recycling Zone

3365 S Hwy 149 (Dodd Rd) Eagan, MN 55121  
651-905-4520

Sun-Tues: Closed • Wed: 9am-8pm  
Thurs: Noon-8pm • Fri & Sat: 9am-5pm



## CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE ALARMS

In 2012, nearly 60 percent of Minnesota's fire deaths were in homes where smoke alarms were not present, not working, or not known to be working.

- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to provide protection for your family.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are required within 10 feet of all sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home and in each sleeping area.
- Replace batteries at least once a year in smoke and CO alarms equipped with batteries or battery back-up systems.
- Replace smoke alarms after 10 years and CO alarms after seven years, or per manufacturer's instructions. Check the back of the alarm for a manufacture date. If it isn't there, the alarm is more than 10 years old.

## CANDLE SAFETY



In 2012, open flame was the third-leading cause of residential fires in Minnesota. There were 414 fires caused by open flame that year. These fires were responsible for 15 reported injuries and more than \$9.5 million in property loss.

- Consider using flameless candles.
- Use candles in the center of an area clear of anything that could burn for one-foot in every direction. Keep decorations, napkins, curtains and other items at least 12 inches away.
- Use a sturdy container of metal, glass or ceramic material.
- Stay in the same room with burning candles. Most candle fires start when lit candles are left unattended. Don't leave candles burning out of your sight or when you fall asleep at night.
- Place candles out of reach of children and pets. Many fires are started when pets knock candles over, or when children touch or play with them.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Store them in a high cabinet — preferably a locked one.



## CITY INFORMATION ON CABLE 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.

#### 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](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).



## LEBANON CEMETERY

### Historical Marker

In the original section of Lebanon Cemetery, there is a pedestal with a bronze plaque on it. This historical marker notes the dates and people involved with establishing the cemetery and transferring it to the City of Apple Valley. When you have a chance, stop by and read it. You may find some familiar names on it, and you can enjoy the beauty and serenity of the cemetery.

Lebanon Cemetery is open all year from sunrise to sunset. Entrance is from eastbound County Road 42 or northbound Pilot Knob Road. If you'd like information on the Cemetery, please call Public Works at **952-953-2400** or send an e-mail to [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us). Information is also posted under City Services on the City website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org)

## 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**

## WINTER REMINDER:

**Please remember to clear snow from around fire hydrants.**

