

# CityNews



**SPRING 2014**

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## YOUR QUALITY NEIGHBORHOOD CHECKLIST

As we move into spring, please refer to the check-list below. This list serves as a guide to maintaining quality standards for your home, yard and neighborhood.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> through Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. No lawn watering is allowed between

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TWIN CITIES, MN

ECRWSS  
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CUSTOMER

**Mayor:**  
Mary Hamann-Roland

**Council Members:**  
John Bergman  
Thomas Goodwin  
Ruth Grendahl  
Clint Hooppaw

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.

### OUTDOOR CODE CONCERNS:

Contact Code Enforcement at  
**(952) 953-2570** with any questions or concerns.

## SPRING STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

### WETLAND 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, field work, and lab time. Call 952-891-7000 for more information.

**STORMDRAIN STENCILING KITS** Stormdrain stenciling kits are available for checkout for 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. Dumping into storm drains has a negative impact on lakes, ponds, wetlands, and wildlife. Stenciling materials are provided. Call 952-953-2462 to reserve your kit.

### APPLE VALLEY GARDENING GRANTS

The Water Quality Improvement Cost Share Program provides grants to property owners that install water quality projects on properties in Apple Valley. Typical projects funded in the past have included raingardens and native plant shoreline stabilizations (buffers). Qualifying projects may be eligible for a reimbursement of 50% to a maximum of \$500. Apply early: funding is limited, applications are competitive, and restrictions apply. Applications are due by May 1, 2014; late applications will be accepted if funds are still available. 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 March 19. 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.dakotacountywcd.org>.

### DAKOTA COUNTY GRANT PROGRAMS

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District administers 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 at "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.dakotacountywcd.org>.

### RAINBARRELS & COMPOST BINS

Save money on a new rainbarrel or compost bin. 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](http://www.BlueThumb.org). For more information on Apple Valley water quality, contact Apple Valley Natural Resources at 952-953-2462.



## DO YOU KNOW WHAT A HEALTHY LAKE LOOKS LIKE?

Okay, trick question. The fact is you can't tell whether a lake is healthy or not just by looking at it. Sure, cloudy brown or green water can point to a problem, but crystal clear lakes can have problems too. Many pollutants, mercury for example, do not cause a noticeable change in lake appearance. Determining whether a lake is healthy or not requires more investigation.

Most of the water quality data in Apple Valley is collected by volunteers, with some collected by government employees and consultants. From there, information is submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) where it is analyzed. Not only is data on water clarity and pollutants looked at, but the fish and plant community composition as well (not every fish can live anywhere).

The bar is set by state water quality standards. If a lake or waterbody is shown not to be meeting state standards, it is designated as impaired and gets placed on the Impaired Waters List that is drafted by the State every two years. In time, cleanup plans called Total Maximum Daily Load Studies (TMDLs) are developed for each lake, stream, or wetland on the list. If a waterbody begins to meet water quality standards, it is eventually removed from the Impaired Waters List, or "delisted."

In some cases, the City is required to change its operations or install new projects to comply with a TMDL. A TMDL can even affect city operations if the specific waterbody is not in the city. For example, Apple Valley is subject to the Lower Mississippi River Basin Fecal Coliform Bacteria TMDL because ultimately Apple Valley's runoff drains to the Mississippi River.

All this serves to underscore the importance of practicing good water habits at home. The primary source of pollutants in Apple Valley is our yards. In many cases, space limitations raise the cost of putting in new projects to clean up the pollutants coming from our lawns. We can reach water quality goals faster and cheaper by following these four simple habits at home:

1. Never dump anything in the stormdrains on the street – they drain directly to local lakes and ponds.
2. Always clean up fertilizers, grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, and spills from streets, sidewalks, and driveways – rains can wash these messes into the nearest stormdrain.

3. Limit your use of fertilizers and never use phosphorus fertilizer unless a soil test says you need it.
4. Learn about and consider installing water quality practices in your yard – native plant gardens, raingardens, rainbarrels, and rooftop disconnection can add a lot to your yard.

For more information on Apple Valley water quality, contact Apple Valley Natural Resources at **952-953-2462**. You can learn more about Impaired Waters and TMDLs by visiting [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us).

## FORESTRY

### ANNUAL CITY TREE AND SHRUB SALE

Apple Valley residents will be able to place orders for trees and shrubs beginning March 10, 2014. The orders will be ready for pickup on Saturday, April 26, at the Central Maintenance Facility. All trees and shrubs will be in bare-root form except for a limited number of potted spruce trees. Order forms are available at the Apple Valley Municipal Center, the Central Maintenance Facility, and on the City website ([cityofapplevalley.org](http://cityofapplevalley.org)).

### 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 are only necessary for covering 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 incurred during the growing season when moist conditions prevail. It is recommended to prune these tree species when extended dry weather conditions are expected.

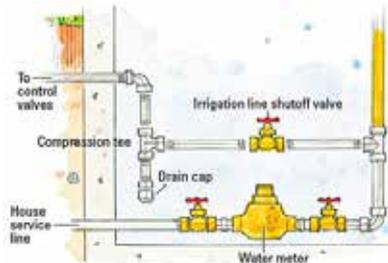
### PUBLIC STREET TREE TRIMMING

Public Works crews routinely trim trees that are in the public street right-of-way from November through April each year. The City's Natural Resources Management Code requires trimming to ten (10) feet above the surface of any public sidewalk or path, and thirteen (13) feet above the surface of any public street. Trimming trees to this height helps prevent damage to the tree and vehicles such as snowplows, sweepers, and garbage and delivery trucks. It also provides adequate head room for pedestrians and bicyclists. Trees causing visibility restriction or a hazardous condition are trimmed or removed as necessary throughout the year.

## WATER AND SEWER

### HOME VALVE MAINTENANCE

The best defense against a water emergency is knowing where the main water shut off valve is located inside your home and ensuring that it is functional. The main water valve is typically located in the mechanical room near the furnace and water heater. The water meter is usually located in this area also. There should be a valve on each side of the water meter. Either valve will shut off the water to your home if they are operable.



Care and maintenance of these valves is the responsibility of the homeowner. When a water meter is replaced, these valves need to be operational to shut off the water. A ball valve and gate valve are the two most common types of valves. The handle for the ball valve should rotate 90 degrees to turn the water on and off. The ball valve requires very little maintenance, just operate by turning on and off to verify functionality. The gate valve requires a little more attention. A gate valve is just that - a small gate within the valve opens and closes as you turn the handle to the left or right, respectively. The gate valve stem can corrode over time. Corrosion found on the valve stem can be forced into the packing of the valve, damaging the packing and resulting in a leaky valve.



#### Gate valve maintenance, with the gate valve open:

1. Clean the valve stem with a strip of emery cloth until the brass is shiny and free of corrosion. *(Once cleaned, the valve stem may be lubricated with food grade grease or spray lubricant.)*
2. Fully close and open the gate valve two or three times to remove any particles lodged in the sleeve the gate valve seats into.

If water is seeping from the valve stem, it can often be stopped by tightening the packing nut. To do this it is recommended that you partially close the valve, gently tighten the packing nut with a plier or channel lock, then open the valve. Do not force the operation of the valve or movement of the packing nut.

Should a main valve not operate or shut the water off to

the home, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have it repaired or replaced. To do this work the water will need to be shut off at the curb stop which is typically located in the front yard. You must notify Public Works of the water off request at least 48 hours in advance by calling **952-953-2400**. The 48 hours allows time for Public Works staff to locate the curb stop and verify its operation prior to the scheduled shut off time. Residents avoid the added cost of having a plumber waiting for the water to be turned off, or return fees in the event the water could not be shut off.

### HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Public Works Department conducts fire hydrant flushing every spring. For this year's schedule, check the City's website: [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). Hydrant flushing takes 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**.

### 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 website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://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.

### WATER SERVICE LINE PROTECTION COVERAGE

Some Apple Valley residents may have received a letter from one of several companies who are selling water service line protection coverage. As in the past, the City of Apple Valley has not partnered with any private water service maintenance providers. In fact, neither these companies nor this type of coverage are endorsed by the City of Apple Valley. If you are considering purchasing this type of coverage for your property, the City strongly advises you to thoroughly research the need to do so and the background and track record of any company that offers this type of coverage in order to make an informed decision prior to entering into any agreement. For more information, contact the City of Apple Valley Public Works at **952-953-2400**.

### 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



### SPRING STREET SWEEPING

It's time to clean up the sand and road debris accumulation from winter. 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 composting 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.

The Public Works Department usually begins spring road cleanup 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.

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.

### RECYCLING MORE AT HOME

Go online to [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/curbside](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/curbside) to see what you can recycle.

Recycling is an easy way for Apple Valley residents to help the environment and the economy. By recycling, you are saving energy, conserving natural resources and preventing pollution. Additionally, recycling directly and indirectly supports 37,000 jobs in our state, and adds nearly \$8.5 billion to the Minnesota economy. However, a recent study estimates that we throw nearly 1.2 million tons of recyclables into the garbage each year! The best way to prevent this is to know what you can recycle at home.

Apple Valley residents can now go online to find out if they could be recycling more. Visit [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/curbside](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/curbside), and click on your garbage company's logo. You'll see an up-to-date list of the things you can and can't put in your recycling bin at home. New technologies mean that more things are recyclable than ever, so even if you've been recycling for years you may learn something new!

#### Are you recycling these often-forgotten recyclables?

- Plastic bottles from shampoo, conditioner, lotion or soap (*rinse and put cap back on before recycling*)
- Empty cardboard tubes from paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Boxes from cases of pop or beer cans
- Glass jars that held pasta sauce, jam/jelly, baby food or pickles (*rinse and put cap back on before recycling*)
- Plastic jugs from laundry or dishwasher detergent
- Juice boxes and milk cartons

#### Have questions about recycling?

Visit [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org) or call the recycling department at **952-895-4511**.



## ATTENTION APPLE VALLEY RESIDENTS

The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) is offering a variety of programs to assist residents with the purchase of a home, upkeep of their existing homes, or mortgage foreclosure prevention in the city.

### FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

Homebuyers in Dakota County can now access fixed, low-interest mortgage financing along with a Mortgage Credit Certificate and up to \$10,000 in downpayment and closing cost assistance through the CDA First Time Homebuyer Program.

To apply for the First Time Homebuyer Program, contact one of the loan officers on the approved "Participating Lender List", which is available on the Dakota County CDA website. Interested homebuyers must work with a Participating Mortgage Lender to qualify for the First Time Homebuyer, Give Yourself Credit! and Down Payment Assistance Programs. Additional lenders will be added to the list as they sign up to participate in the program.

The First Time Homebuyer Program may only be used with 30-year amortizing fixed-rate FHA or VA mortgage loans. There is **NO ORIGATION FEE** charged for the first mortgage. Homebuyers must be first time homebuyers or someone who has not owned a home in the last three years. Honorably discharged Veterans are eligible whether or not they are first time homebuyers. To be eligible, the Veteran cannot have used a similar program to purchase a home in the past. Properties must be located in Dakota County. Homebuyers must occupy the home as their primary place of residence after purchase. Homebuyers must have a minimum credit score of 640.

Income limits are \$82,300 for one or two person households and \$90,530 for three or more person households. A maximum purchase price for single-family homes, townhomes or condominiums is \$271,590. Interested homebuyers will need to work with a participating mortgage lender to determine eligibility. Visit [www.dakotacda.org/homebuyers.htm](http://www.dakotacda.org/homebuyers.htm) for a list of lenders and current interest rates.

### HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM

The Home Improvement Loan Program assists low-and moderate-income homeowners with making repairs and improvements to their homes. Funds are commonly used for roof replacement, furnace replacement,

electrical and plumbing repairs, insulation and special needs improvements (*such as ramps, bathroom and kitchen modifications*). Loans can be up to \$25,000 for single family and up to \$5,000 for mobile homes.

To qualify, applicants must own their home, have sufficient equity in the property, a satisfactory credit history and a gross annual income that does not exceed specific limits as based on household size. Zero percent, deferred loans are available for homeowners earning less than 50 percent of area median income and homeowners earning 50 to 80 percent of area median income can qualify for a 3 percent interest deferred loan. Mobile home loans are not charged interest. The loan features no monthly payments; however, it must be fully repaid at the time of sale or refinance of the home.

If you qualify, the CDA will inspect your home, prepare specifications and assist you in obtaining at least two bids for the work to be done. Loan proceeds are kept on account for you by the CDA and payment is made directly to the contractors on your behalf when the work is completed. Inspection of work in progress and upon completion is required by both you and the CDA before payment is made. For more information or to request an application, contact the CDA's Home Rehab Loan Specialist Mark Hanson at **(651) 675-4469** or visit [www.dakotacda.org](http://www.dakotacda.org).

### WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The Weatherization Program is administered as a joint effort between the Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency and the CDA. The program provides income qualified homeowners, based upon income limits, a grant to help make their home more energy efficient. Grant funds are used to insulate attics or walls or to upgrade furnaces. Households who have applied to and are eligible for the Energy Assistance Program are automatically referred to the Weatherization Program.

If you qualify for the Weatherization Program, the CDA's Energy Specialist will conduct an energy audit on your home to determine solutions to improve your home's energy efficiency. The CDA will assist you in selecting a qualified contractor to complete the work. Payment is made directly to the contractor on your behalf when the work is completed and after the CDA has inspected the work.

For information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, call **(651) 675-4554**.

## **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The CDA's Mortgage Foreclosure prevention program provides free counseling assistance to help homeowners who may be facing foreclosure or who are already in foreclosure. Homeowners work one-on-one with the CDA's trained homeownership specialists to assess their situation and determine possible solutions. The specialist will provide information about the foreclosure process, evaluate the situation and suggest options. An action plan will be developed to address the mortgage delinquency that may include contacting the mortgage company. The homeowner will work with the CDA's specialist to implement an action plan, which includes an in-depth look at the homeowner's finances to develop a budget for the future.

As a last resort, a one-time limited amount of financial assistance is available to qualified homeowners. These loans are given on a case-by-case basis and only assist a few homeowners each year.

For more information, contact the Dakota County CDA Homeowner Hotline at **(651) 675-4555** or visit [www.dakotacda.org](http://www.dakotacda.org).



## **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).

## FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

### 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 exhaust air is escaping normally. If it is not, turn the dryer off and look inside both ends of the duct for lint. Remove any lint found there. If there are signs that the dryer is hotter than normal, this may be a sign that the dryer's temperature control thermostat needs servicing.
- If clothing is still damp at the end of a normal cycle or requires longer drying times, this may be a sign that the exhaust or lint screen is blocked.
- Check the exhaust duct more often if you have a plastic, flexible duct. This type of duct is more apt to trap lint than smooth metal ducting. Inspect the duct for kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce the airflow.
- Closely follow manufacturers' instructions for new installations. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or flexible metal duct to provide maximum airflow. If you are having the dryer installed, insist upon metal duct work for maximum airflow and safety.



### GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

Never use charcoal grills inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers. They produce carbon monoxide that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Never empty ashes into garbage cans, paper bags, or other combustible containers as ashes can stay hot for up to three days and create hazardous fire events. Gas grills should be checked frequently to make sure that the tubes that lead into the burner are not blocked from insects or food grease. Hoses should be watched for any signs of cracking, brittleness, holes, or leaks. If you hear or smell gas leaking, turn off the fuel supply at the tank immediately and have the grill replaced or repaired.



### WOOD BURNING FIREPLACE

There's nothing like a crackling fire in the fireplace to make your home feel more comfortable in these cold winter months. When using your wood burning fireplace, remember to only burn dry, cured firewood and to close the damper when not using your fireplace. Always make sure you have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors installed correctly in your home.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING AN APPLE VALLEY FIREFIGHTER?

### ARE YOU CUT OUT TO BE AN APPLE VALLEY FIRE FIREFIGHTER?

Do you meet our minimum requirements:

- Are you at least 18 years of age?
- Will you be a high school graduate or equivalent by April 30, 2014?
- Do you possess an unrestricted valid MN driver's license?
- Do you have no disqualifying criminal history events within the past 7 years?
- Do you live within 4 minutes of an Apple Valley Fire Station as determined by department policy?



### APPLE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEER/PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS!

The hiring process is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2014 and will include;

- Qualified applicants will be required to submit to a written test and oral interview.
- All candidates must pass a City of Apple Valley sponsored physical exam, a firefighter ability test, a criminal background check and a psychological evaluation.
- After the Apple Valley City Council approves the hiring of the new firefighters, the approximate six month training program will begin.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

You and your significant other or an interested family member are invited to the City of Apple Valley Municipal Center (7100 147 Street West) on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Representatives of the Apple Valley Fire Department will provide a more detailed picture of what it means to be an Apple Valley firefighter. Be sure to bring any questions you may have.

You will be able to view and apply for firefighter job opportunities beginning April 1, 2014 at [www.cityofapplevalley.org/employment](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org/employment). Login to your *GovernmentJobs.com* personal account or, if you are a first time user, follow the instructions to create your account and then complete the online application.



## CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY - 2014

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 1 and running through Tuesday, May 27, 2014. 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** or [pwalter@cityofapplevalley.org](mailto:pwalter@cityofapplevalley.org). To register, visit the City's web site at [www.cityofapplevalley.org/police](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org/police).



## 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.

In 2013 the City added approximately three acres of land on the east side of the cemetery. This establishes the final boundary of Lebanon Cemetery.

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](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org), email [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us), or call **952-953-2500**. Staff would be pleased to assist you.