

# CityNews



WINTER 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## Snow and Ice Removal at Home

Winter is upon us, and living in a state where winter can last up to six months means that we can't stop everything because of a little (or big) snowstorm. Winter snow and ice removal is not an insignificant task and can have a definite impact on your wallet, your back, and the environment. Accomplishing the task correctly will save you time in the long run.

The best way you can help yourself is by removing snow promptly. The longer you wait, the more likely ice will form. Of course, promptly removing snow is not always possible. In that case, it takes a little more thought about how you deal with the ice.

Many people turn to either salt or sand once ice has formed. Salt and sand are effective under different conditions. Salt works by lowering the freezing point of water, which is why ice melts once it is applied. Standard salt stops working at temperatures below 15°F. When it gets colder, it is best to turn to sand. Sand does not melt ice, but it can provide some traction. Adding sand at warmer temperatures will not solve your ice problem and can damage floors if enough gets tracked into your house. Always remove as much snow as you can before applying sand or salt for it to be more effective. Once the salt starts to melt the ice, remove all the slush to reduce the chances of ice reforming. The true key to reducing your impact on the environment is to use the minimum amount needed to get the job done. If you apply too much or spill some, sweep it up as best as you can to reuse at a later date. Remember, if you apply it to your sidewalk or driveway, it can run off into the storm drain in the street, and from there it will end up in the nearest lake, pond, or wetland.

You can learn more about salt's impact on the environment by visiting [http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/understanding/impact\\_salt.html](http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/understanding/impact_salt.html). For more information on Apple Valley's water resources, call 952-953-2462.

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## Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide is a highly poisonous gas that is colorless and odorless. Here are some things you can do to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning this winter.

- Check that your carbon monoxide detector button, making sure to hold it for at least 20 to sound an alarm, it should be repaired or replaced with a new device immediately.
- Always move vehicles out of the garage when starting them on cold winter mornings. Starting the car in the garage can allow carbon monoxide to build up in the garage where it can eventually enter the home.
- Keep the exhaust vents of the furnace, water heater, and dryer clear of snow and ice. Make a point of checking them after storms due to the likelihood of snow drifting around them and blocking the openings. This is very important if these vents are located on the side of the home rather than the roof.



**Mayor:**  
Mary Hamann-Roland

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



## SNOW & ICE CONTROL

### New 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 171 miles of City streets and 329 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 snowplows during snow removal operations if it is reported to the Public Works Department **prior to 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- by 4-inch treated post. Residents may request reimbursement of expenses up to \$75 for supplies 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.

Mailbox damage must be reported to the Public Works Department **prior to May 1**. 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.

### 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.

### Priorities

Streets are prioritized for plowing:

1. Arterial and collector streets
2. Commercial streets
3. Residential streets
4. Cul-de-sacs and City parking lots
5. Downtown sidewalks

## 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. Aeration systems are operated 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, and 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 (less than 32 degrees) and create an open water area for oxygen exchange with the atmosphere.

Operation of an aeration system is regulated by the Minnesota DNR and requires an annual permit. Warning signs will be posted and maintained around the perimeter of the aerated area to alert lake users.



### 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:

1. Leave 75 feet between your vehicle and a snow plow in front of you.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Please do not throw snow from your driveway onto the street or sidewalk. If you have a contractor plow, make sure they place the snow on your property.
5. Remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 48 hours after its accumulation.
6. Remove snow from around a fire hydrant to save firefighters' time.

**For more information, please call Public Works at 952-953-2400**

## Priority Messages

- Keep or maintain a three-foot (one-meter) clearance between all heating equipment and anything that can burn.
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Inspect and maintain heating equipment regularly for safety.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room and before going to bed.
- When buying a new space heater, make sure it has the label showing it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory. Be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes. Or make sure a qualified technician checks to see that the unit has been properly installed.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### Additional Safety Tips

#### Heating

- Make sure your heating equipment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- If possible, have a qualified professional install the equipment.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside. Make sure the venting for exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed. This includes removal of snow around the outlet to the outside.
- Supervise children when open fires and space heaters are being used and install a non-combustible screen around the appliance to prevent burns which are even more common than fire injuries.

#### Portable Space Heaters

- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.



- Inspect for cracked, frayed, or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.

#### Wood-burning Stoves and Fireplaces

- Clean chimney yearly.
- Make sure damper is open and working before starting fire.
- Maintain 36" in front of them.
- Keep glass doors closed or make sure screen is in front of them.
- Dispose ashes into a metal container with a lid on it. Ashes can stay hot for 48 hours.

#### Gas Fireplaces

- Maintain a clearance around them of 36"
- Know where the gas shut off valve is if it was to fail

#### Firewood

- Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood.
- Use artificial logs according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use only newspaper and kindling wood to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline to start a fire.

As the snow piles up, remember to keep fire hydrants clear. Any resident with a hydrant adjacent to their property should make sure snow is cleared at least three feet around the hydrant. If a fire should occur, you won't want firefighters wasting precious time locating and digging out a hydrant encased in ice and snow.

People should also keep front and rear entrances to their homes clear in case of an emergency. And don't forget to assist those who can't help themselves. If you have somebody in your neighborhood because of age or their illness or mobility issues isn't able to keep their own doorways clear, give them a hand.

Businesses also need to keep all hydrants clear and clear exits of snow and ice so people can evacuate in case of an emergency.

## Gardening Workshops

If you want to get a head start on planning your spring gardening projects and are concerned about the quality of local water resources, there are workshops just for you. Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be offering Blue Thumb™ workshops in conjunction with Dakota County cities and watershed management organizations during the winter and spring months. This is a unique opportunity to learn about gardening projects that beautify your yard and improve water quality of ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. Blue Thumb™ is a partnership of entities committed to improving water quality by helping homeowners use native plants in their yards. To learn more, visit [bluethumb.org](http://bluethumb.org).

The Free "An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water" workshop will be hosted at the following locations and dates from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

◆ Lebanon Hills Park	February 28
◆ Burnsville	March 13
◆ Eagan	March 15
◆ Hastings	March 20
◆ West St. Paul	March 22
◆ Farmington	April 2
◆ Lakeville	April 3
◆ Apple Valley	April 5

The introductory workshop is free and is a prerequisite for the more advanced design course "Raingarden and Native Garden Design." Workshops include information on cost-share opportunities available to Dakota County residents. To register for a class, contact the Dakota County SWCD at 651-480-7777.



## LEBANON CEMETERY CREMATION OPTION

Are you planning on cremation and looking for an alternative to in-ground burial? A columbarium interment may be the answer. This is an above-ground structure designed for the specific purpose of interring cremated remains. Lebanon Cemetery has two columbaria and foundations for two future columbaria. Small trees, shrubs, and perennials provide a beautiful setting for visiting loved ones.

The columbaria have single and double niches sized to contain one or two cremation urns. A bronze plaque adorned with a wreath emblem and embossed with the deceased's name and years of birth and death is placed on the front of the niche space. A small bronze vase for the niche front is available for purchase.

Lebanon Cemetery of Apple Valley is located on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road. For more information, please call 952-953-2400 or visit [cityofapplevalley.org](http://cityofapplevalley.org).

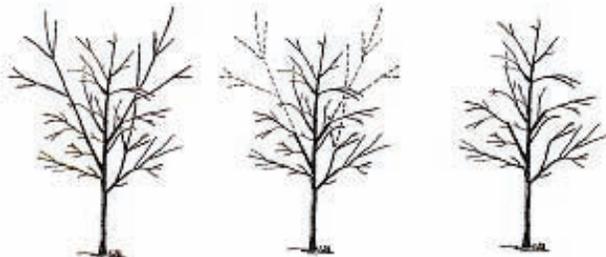


## WINTER TREE WORK

Late October through March is the preferred time for tree pruning, since insects and diseases are dormant. Tree pruning is especially important during a tree's early years to establish good structure for the future. Please refer to the illustration and points below on tree pruning:

- Prune trees to maintain one central dominant leader.
- Shorten all upright growing branches to prevent competition with the central leader.
- Shorten the lowest branches to keep their diameter small; they can be removed later as needed for clearance (small diameter means a small pruning wound).
- Remove all dead, broken, and rubbing branches.
- Branches should be spaced evenly along the central leader.
- Young trees require pruning every two to three years. As trees get older, live branches should be removed only when necessary. Pruning mature trees should be more of a maintenance pruning and be focused on dead and damaged branches.
- Make pruning cuts next to a branch collar or bud. Don't leave branch stubs.
- Pruning paint is only necessary on oak, elm, honeylocust, and fruit trees during the growing season to seal out disease.
- Wrap trunks of newly planted and thin-barked tree species in late fall and remove wrap in spring. Light colored tree wrap is recommended. Wrap trunks up to the first branch or five to six feet above the ground.

The City Code of Ordinances requires tree workers to be licensed for all tree work performed in the City of Apple Valley (§ 152.43). A list of currently licensed tree contractors is available on the City's website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org), or by calling Natural Resources at 952-953-2461. All tree related questions welcomed at the same Natural Resources number.



## 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 \$30 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. If you set up a temporary forwarding at the post office, your water bills should automatically be forwarded on 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.

### 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.



## 3% Financing Now Available for Residential Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Loan Amount	Fixed Rate	Monthly Payment*	Loan Term
\$1,000	3%	\$20.00	5 yrs
\$3,000	3%	\$60.00	5 yrs
\$5,000	3%	\$95.00	5 yrs
\$7,500	3%	\$140.00	5 yrs

The City of Apple Valley now offers 3% financing to qualified homeowners of single family owner occupied residences. Designed to address the needs of homeowners prior to the winter, this program offers 3% financing for many energy efficiency upgrades including air sealing, insulation, high efficiency heating systems and more. Insufficient insulation is the main cause of ice dams which created huge damage to homes across Minnesota last year. Did you know that it only costs approximately \$2-3,000 to have the average home's attic air sealed and insulated? That's about \$60/month for 5 years at 3% interest for peace of mind this winter. The chart below identifies the monthly payments associated with the corresponding loan amount. Apple Valley offers up to a \$7,500 loan amount for this program with a maximum income limit of 80% of the AMI. For example, the income limit for a household of four is \$66,160.

This program is available for a limited time on a first come first served basis until funds are depleted or December 31, 2011, whichever is first. For more information on this program and others offered in your community, visit [www.ceeloans.org](http://www.ceeloans.org) or contact 612-335-5891 or [loaninfo@mncee.org](mailto:loaninfo@mncee.org)

## Save Money, Stay Comfortable This Winter

Getting anxious watching your utility bills creep up this winter? Your family can use these simple low-cost actions from the energy experts at local nonprofit Minnesota Energy Challenge to reduce your home's energy use without impacting your family's comfort.

**Stop phantoms in your home.** The average Minnesota family leaves between 30-40 electronics plugged in at all times – and if they're plugged in, they're using energy! Phantom load is the constant energy leak from those electronics, and just like a leaky faucet, the numbers can really add up. Put your entertainment center and home office on power strips and turn them off at night and when you leave home in the morning.

**HOLD is not a program.** If you have a programmable thermostat, don't use the "hold" setting unless you're going on vacation. Instead, use the simple "8 for 8" rule – set your heat down by 8° for 8 hours at night and/or when there is no one home during the day. Using 8 for 8 can help you reduce your heating bills by \$100 or more a year!

**Prevent scalding and save money.** Keeping your water heater set at 120° isn't just good for your utility bill, it's good for your family. At 120° it takes more than five minutes for someone to get a 2nd or 3rd degree burn – at 130 degrees it takes seconds.

**Give the gift of savings.** Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) now come in a range of colors and applications, including three-way, dimmable, indoor and outdoor floodlight, bathroom globes and "A-line," which are the same size and shape as the old incandescents. CFLs use 75% less electricity, which makes them perfect for lights that are on a lot in the dining room, kitchen and living room. Visit your local hardware store to check out the new variety and always buy ENERGYSTAR-rated bulbs for the best performance.

**Get more information.** If you're struggling with destructive ice dams, moisture on the inside of your windows or weird fluctuations in your energy bills, it's time to call in the experts. An energy audit will help identify your home's specific energy opportunities and challenges, measure the air leaks with a blower door test and make sure your appliances are venting properly. Contact your natural gas or electric utility for pricing and scheduling. Audits that include a blower door test typically cost between \$40 - \$60.

Find more energy efficiency resources at [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org) or visit the Dakota Valley Recycling web site at [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org).

### Help Your Meter Reader

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated in keeping the snow cleared and providing a path for meter readers to access the outside reader for your water meter. The outside reader is usually located near the gas or electrical meter. If you have questions, please call 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**

## 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. The 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.

## 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, Tlevised 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 8 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. In addition the meeting is replayed on Thursday & Saturday at 2 a.m., 11 a.m., & 8 p.m. The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Replays are on Wednesday at 2 a.m., 11 a.m., & 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

### AV 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. & 7:00 p.m.
Friday.....	1:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:00 a.m. & 7:00 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. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday.....	1:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:30 a.m. & 7:30 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).

## Street Light Maintenance

Is there a burned out street light in your neighborhood? If so, contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6287. If possible, note the identification number found at eye level on the pole. With this number, Dakota Electric knows 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.

The City of Apple Valley will be conducting the City's Truth in Taxation hearing on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 8 p.m.

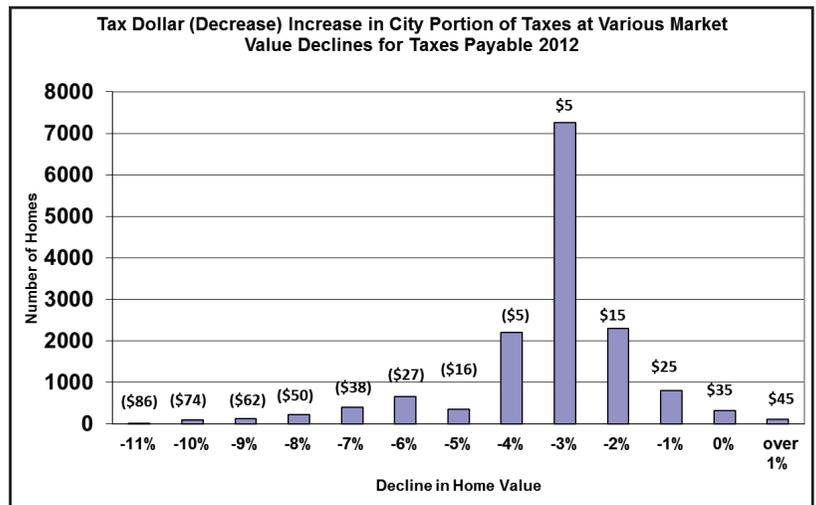
## 2012 City Budget Update

In these tight economic times, be assured that the City of Apple Valley is doing its share to budget accordingly. The Apple Valley City Council has approved a preliminary property tax levy for 2012 that is \$674,751 lower than the year before. As a result of this lower levy and the impacts of changes at the State-wide level, 76.5 percent of residential property owners will see the City's share of their property tax bill increase less than 1% for 2012.

Apple Valley residential properties experienced an average decrease in median value of 2.94% from 2011 to 2012 resulting in a median value home of \$197,800. Under the recommended 2012 budget, this typical median value home will see an increase in the City's share of the property tax bill of less than 1 percent.

Even though the levy is falling for 2012, your taxes paid may not decline because of a combination of changes the State of Minnesota made to the Homestead Credit Program or the changes in your individual properties value. Because of these changes the city taxes on the median valued home will go up approximately \$5 for 2012.

The 2012 property tax levy continues the commitment to the maintenance of the City's infrastructure with a levy of nearly \$1.675 million for the Street Maintenance Program for 2012. The levy also increased \$138,000 for the debt service on the Voter Approved Park Bonds. The City will no longer have to have a direct local levy to support the Market Value Homestead Credit program but, with the changes to the program, will reduce the city's tax base as the program switches to a reduction in taxable market values.



Levy Component	2011	2012	\$ Change
General Fund	\$17,860,000	\$ 17,897,000	\$ 37,000
Street Maintenance Program	1,598,000	1,675,000	77,000
Market Value Homestead Credit	1,120,000	-0-	(1,120,000)
Property Tax Delinquencies	200,000	400,000	200,000
Debt Service- Voter Approved	1,664,000	1,802,000	138,000
Debt Service- All other levy supported	258,000	251,249	(6,751)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 22,025,249</b>	<b>\$ (674,751)</b>

## Market Value Homestead Credit Changes

Recent legislative changes to the state's Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program will significantly impact the 2012 property tax levy. The former system consisted of a property tax credit based upon the home's value, and when the state refused to fund the program in past years, the City was required to raise property taxes on all properties to make up the difference.

The new Homestead Market Value Exclusion (HMVE) program makes adjustments within the tax formulas to provide a similar tax relief by providing for a reduction to the Taxable Market Value. As a result, there will be an adjustment to the 2012 levy, but the city will also experience a reduction in the overall tax base as the taxable market values are reduced. The reduction in the taxable market values for certain groups will pass the property tax burden to other property classes or values.

The following table provides an estimate of the impact of the new Homestead Market Value Exclusion program on varying home values. A home valued at \$100,000 will see their City portion of their taxes fall for 2012 because of the impact of the new Homestead Market Value Credit program. A home valued at \$414,000 will see their taxes rise an additional 2/10 of 1% because of the new Homestead Market Value Exclusion

Change in taxes related to the change in the Homestead Credit program, with a comparison to the 2011 tax amount.					
Home Value (assumes decline in value of 2.94%)	'11 City Tax with MVHC	'12 City Tax with MVHC	'12 City Tax with HMVE	Net '12 Increase (decrease)	Net Incr. (decrease) as %
\$100,000	\$ 359	\$ 362	\$ 357	( \$ 5 )	(1.4%)
\$197,800	861	869	867	( \$ 2 )	( 0.2%)
\$300,000	1,387	1,399	1,400	\$ 1	0.1%
\$414,000	1,968	1,989	1,993	\$ 4	0.2%

## Challenges We Face

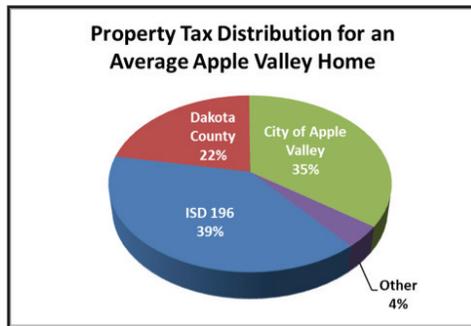
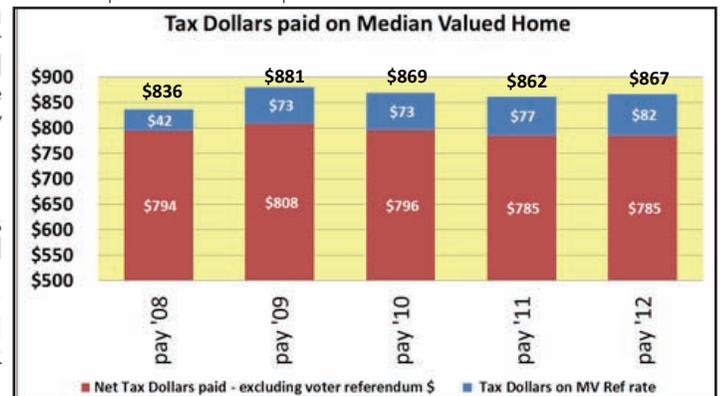
We are adjusting our operations to reflect the new economy, while holding the line on property taxes. Particular challenges for 2012 and beyond include:

1. The City is striving to continually meet the service expectations of our property owners with fewer available resources. Staff reductions and modifications continue for 2012. The City currently has nine staff positions vacant. In addition, the City recently modified the way it handles engineering services resulting in a net savings to the City and its taxpayers.
2. Maintaining the commitment to the City's investment in our aging streets and infrastructure. Each year the City aggressively undertakes a street maintenance/overlay/sealcoating program to extend the life of our streets. For 2012 the property tax levy for street maintenance totals \$1.67 million—a sizable investment but one that will save dollars in the long-run and protect our investment in our infrastructure.
3. Recent changes in the state-wide Homestead Credit Program will have impacts to the property taxes paid by all different types of properties as the changes shift the burden from residential property types to higher valued and commercial properties.

The City budget provides the framework through which essential public services are provided to the public. Essential and desirable services such as police, fire, street repair, snow plowing, parks & recreation, drinking water, sewer disposal, and stormwater management are all accounted for in the City's budget. While these services are sometimes taken for granted or go unnoticed, it is the City budget that helps ensure that the services are adequately funded to help maintain the high quality of life our community is known for.

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

The City tax dollars paid by the median valued home increases approximately 1% or \$5 per year for 2012, most of this increase is related to the increased debt service on the voter approved Park Referendum Bond, represented by the blue bar on the chart on the right. In total, the 2012 taxes paid are the lowest since 2009 and the increase from 2008 is related to the debt service on the park bonds issued in 2008.



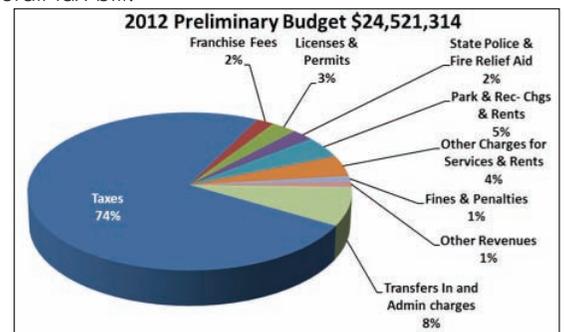
### The City of Apple Valley makes up 35% of your property tax Bill

While the City of Apple Valley has strived 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 owners overall tax bill.

### Sources of General Fund Revenues

Property taxes are the main source of revenue for the City's General Fund providing 74% of the sources needed to operate all the functions of the general government. The remainder of

the revenues are generated by sources such as permits, licenses, lease income, fees, service charges, park operations and transfers and other revenues. These activities of the general government include Police, Fire, Street Maintenance, Park Maintenance Recreation Activities and more.



## General Fund Expenditures

In total General Fund Expenditures, to support general government services, remains at approximately the same level as last year, \$24.5 million. This budget reflects the economic climate we are in, and yet still provides adequate funding to provide nearly all of the services our citizens have come to expect.

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 are dependent on a daily basis.

The total cost for City services in 2012 for the median value Apple Valley homeowner is \$72.52 per month. The checkbook illustrates how this amount is divided among various City departments that are supported by property taxes.

Everyone is invited to attend the City's Truth in Taxation Hearing that will be held December 8, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at the City of Apple Valley Municipal Center. For more information visit the City's website at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org)

Police	\$ 20.75
Public Works & Street Maint. Program	\$ 18.63
Park and Recreation	\$ 10.44
Debt Service	\$ 5.27
Fire	\$ 4.87
City Council, Administration & Human Resources	\$ 4.55
Community Development	\$ 2.09
Finance	\$ 1.98
Information Technology	\$ 1.63
Legal Services	\$ 1.20
Insurance / Contingency	\$ 1.11
<b>Total per Month</b>	<b>\$ 72.52</b>

