

# CityNews



**SPRING 2013**

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### City Tree and Shrub Sale

The annual tree and shrub sale for Apple Valley residents begins March 11, 2013. Trees and shrubs will be in bare-root form and available for pickup on Saturday, April 27, at the Central Maintenance Facility. 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 infection through wounds made during the growing season and under moist conditions. It is recommended to prune these tree species when extended dry weather conditions are expected.

### Only Rain Down the Drain

The storm drains on your street often connect directly to local lakes without receiving any treatment. Substances dumped into drains or spilled on the street will wash into neighborhood ponds when it rains. Even ordinary materials like grass clippings and soaps contain harmful pollutants. Help keep our lakes clean; do not dump materials down the storm drain, and clean up spills. The next time you are doing yard work and household chores, remember that if it is not water, it does not belong down the storm drain.

### 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.

Storm drain stenciling is another volunteer opportunity 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.

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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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TWIN CITIES, MN

ECRWSS  
RESIDENTIAL  
CUSTOMER

### Mayor:

Mary Hamann-Roland

### Council Members:

John Bergman  
Thomas Goodwin  
Ruth Grendahl  
Clint Hoopaw



## WATER QUALITY GRANTS AND WORKSHOPS

### Apple Valley Gardening Grants

Residents of Apple Valley can help improve neighborhood water quality by installing raingardens and native plant shoreline stabilizations (buffers). Through the Water Quality Improvement Cost Share Program, qualifying projects may be eligible for a reimbursement of 50% to a maximum of \$500. Funding is limited, applications are competitive, and restrictions apply; so enquire early. Applications are due by May 1, 2013. Visit <http://cityofapplevalley.org> for more information.

### Planting for Clean Water Workshops

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with area cities, watershed management organizations, and Dakota County will be offering "An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water." This free workshop will be held in various cities throughout Dakota County, including Apple Valley on Thursday, April 4, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The presentation will focus on native gardens, raingardens, and native plant shoreline stabilizations. Attendees will be invited to attend more in-depth design workshops later in the spring. To register for this free workshop, contact the SWCD at 651-480-7777 or visit their web site at <http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org>.

### Dakota County Grant Programs

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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.dakotacountyswcd.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 water quality grants and workshops, contact Natural Resources at **952-953-2462**.





## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Are you storing old electronics in your basement, garage or attic? You're not alone. The average US household has two to three unused televisions and computers in storage. Instead, recycle the devices you're no longer using.

Those old, bulky TVs and computers have a cathode ray tube (CRT), which contains 2 to 8 pounds of lead. Electronic products containing a CRT may not be placed in the garbage (Minnesota Statutes §115A.9565). Recycling options for household electronics available Apple Valley residents include:

- **Bring them to The Recycling Zone (3365 Dodd Rd, Eagan) for free.** For hours, directions and more information, call 651-905-4520.
- **Call your garbage hauler.** Some haulers will do a special curbside pick-up for a one-time fee if you call ahead of time.
- **Use an electronics recycler** for disposal of your old devices for a fee. Some offer a pick-up of TVs, computers or other bulky electronics. Call the Apple Valley recycling department at 952-895-4511 for a list of recyclers.

In addition to CRT TVs and computers, your other household electronics also need to be recycled once you're no longer using them. This includes:

### Answering Machines

Cell Phones (*Blackberry®*, *iPhone®*, *other smart phones*),

Computer Accessories (*keyboards, mouse, modems, etc.*)

### DVD players

Gaming Systems (*PlayStation™*, *Xbox®*, *etc.*)

### Fax Machines

### Flat Screen TV's & Monitors

### Laptops

MP3 Players (*iPods®*)

### Printers

### Radios

### Scanners

Stereo Equipment

### Telephones

### VCR Players

The Recycling Zone will accept all of these items at no charge to Dakota County residents. For more information on electronics recycling, visit the Apple Valley recycling department's website, [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org) and type "CRT" into the search bar.

## Refuse & Garbage Container Storage

Please remember to store your refuse and garbage containers in a proper manner on non-collection days. City ordinance requires all refuse and garbage to be stored in containers and the containers to be screened from view by adjacent properties and right of ways. What constitutes effective screening? Attractive landscaping, fencing, and enclosed areas using materials compatible to the house are often solutions. Many homeowners keep their containers in their garage. Containers may also be stored in rear yards of single family properties. Code enforcement will be conducting neighborhood sweeps to ensure compliance. Your cooperation in maintaining an attractive and quality neighborhood is greatly appreciated. Please contact Code Enforcement with any questions or concerns at **952.953.2570**.



When containers are visible.



When containers are properly screened.

## 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 composted on the property. Early spring rains wash organic matter such as grass, decomposed leaves, and twigs, as well as sand into catch basins and storm ponds. This leads to nuisance weeds, algal bloom, and sand deltas in City ponds and lakes.

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.

### Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department conducts fire hydrant flushing every spring. The tentative start date for flushing hydrants is Monday, April 1, depending upon weather. When the actual date is determined, it will be posted on 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 web site, [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.

### Sump Pumps

Many homes use sump pumps to keep the basement dry. They pump water that is called clear water - most often rain water, groundwater, or snow melt. Clear water does not require treatment as does wastewater. Wastewater is the water from sinks, showers, tubs, toilets, and washing machines. This water flows into the sanitary sewer system and must be treated at a wastewater treatment plant before it can be safely discharged into the environment. Clear water entering the sanitary sewer system is commonly referred to as I & I (inflow and infiltration). Sump pumps discharging into laundry tubs and floor drains are a form of I & I. Discharge from sump pumps is prohibited by law from entering the sanitary sewer system. The typical installation is rigid PVC pipe running from the sump pump to the outside of the house. The water is then discharged onto the grass.

When clear water enters the sanitary sewer system, everyone pays. The sanitary sewer flow is metered when it leaves Apple Valley so excess water in the sanitary sewer system raises the cost the City pays to the Metropolitan Council of Environmental Services (MCES) for treating the wastewater. It also reduces the capability of MCES to treat wastewater, resulting in the potential need to expand plants. The costs from MCES are reflected in your sewer bill each month.

For an animation on sump pumps, you can view Sump Pump Flash Animation at:

[http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/Public\\_Works/Utilities/main.html](http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/Public_Works/Utilities/main.html).

If you would like more information about sump pumps or cross connections, please contact Public Works at **(952) 953-2400**.

**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**

## City Information on Channel 16

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

### Live, Gavel-To-Gavel, Televised Meeting Coverage

Apple Valley Government Access Channel 16 telecasts all of the City Council and Planning Commission meetings live. Meeting coverage is also replayed on a variety of days and times to provide more opportunities for citizen involvement in their local government. The City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. In addition the meeting is replayed on Thursdays & Saturdays at 2:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m. The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Replays are on Wednesdays at 2:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

### Apple Valley Programs On CH. 16:

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

#### Valley Beat:

**Sunday** 8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.

**Monday** 1:00 a.m.

**Tuesday** 8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday** 1:00 a.m.

**Thursday** 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

**Friday** 1:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday** 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

#### Apple Valley Hook & Ladder:

**Sunday** 8:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.

**Monday** 1:30 a.m.

**Tuesday** 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday** 1:30 a.m.

**Thursday** 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**Friday** 1:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday** 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

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

## Department of Health Warning

### Deceptive Sales of Water Treatment Systems

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is reminding Minnesota residents to beware of false claims, deceptive sales pitches, and scare tactics being used by some water treatment companies to sell expensive and unnecessary water treatment systems.

In some of the worst instances, the salesperson has implied or said that he is working with the city's water utility or the state health department. In most cases, the systems are being sold for thousands of dollars more than they would cost if bought through a reputable water treatment company. The United States Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for public water supplies. Water is tested regularly to ensure that these standards are met. You may find out the results of tests on the public water supply in Apple Valley by contacting Public Works at **952-953-2400** or online at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). For more information, see the news release from MDH at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2012/water122612.html>



### Sewer and Water Emergencies

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

**Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**952-953-2400 (Public Works)**

**After hours, weekends and holidays**  
**952-322-2323 (Dakota Communication Center)**

## Fire Safety in Multiple Situations

### Campfires

As the weather continues to be on the cool side, it is a perfect time for all of us to remember fire safety rules for campfires.

- Have a means of extinguishing the campfire close at hand.
- A bucket of water, garden hose, a shovel for placing dirt on the smothering coals or a fire extinguisher.
- Construct the campfire within a ring of stones or bricks or in a dug pit with all vegetation cleared for at least 5 feet around the campfire area.
- Keep the campfire at least 25 feet from buildings, tents and other burnable materials.
- Supervise children around the campfire and keep someone present at the campfire.
- Place only the amount of wood in the campfire that you expect will burn completely while you enjoy the campfire.
- Don't place aerosol containers or other non-wood items in the campfire.

### Candles

Candles are safe products, but unless they are used safely and watched carefully, they can lead to an accidental fire. More than 15,000 candle fires are reported annually. According to fire experts, the bulk of candle-fire incidents are due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles. The National Candle Association urges consumers to be careful when burning candles, and to following these rules for burning candles safely.

**Always keep a burning candle within sight.** Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.

**Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire.** Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.

**Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.** Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.

**Trim candlewicks to ¼ inch each time before burning.** Long or crooked wicks cause uneven burning and dripping.

**Always use a candle holder specifically designed for candle use.** The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax.



**Be sure the candle holder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.** This will also help prevent possible heat damage to counters and table surfaces and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.

**Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times.**

**Always read and follow the manufacturer's use and safety instructions carefully.** Don't burn a candle longer than the manufacturer recommends.

**Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, ceiling fans and air currents.** This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, and avoid flame flare-ups and sooting. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire.

**Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.** Don't burn too many candles in a small room or in a "tight" home where air exchange is limited.

**Don't burn a candle all the way down.** Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container. For a margin of safety, discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remains or ½ inch if in a container.

**Never touch a burning candle or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid.**

**Never use a knife or sharp object to remove wax drippings from a glass holder.** It might scratch, weaken, or cause the glass to break upon subsequent use.

**Place burning candles at least three inches apart from one another.** This is to make sure they don't melt one another, or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.

**Use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle.** It's the safest way to prevent hot wax from splattering.

**Never extinguish candles with water.** The water can cause the hot wax to splatter and might cause a glass container to break.

**Be very careful if using candles during a power outage.** Flashlights and other battery-powered lights are safer sources of light during a power failure. Never use a candle during a power outage to look for things in a closet, or when fueling equipment - such as a lantern or kerosene heater.



Make sure a candle is completely extinguished and the wick ember is no longer glowing before leaving the room.

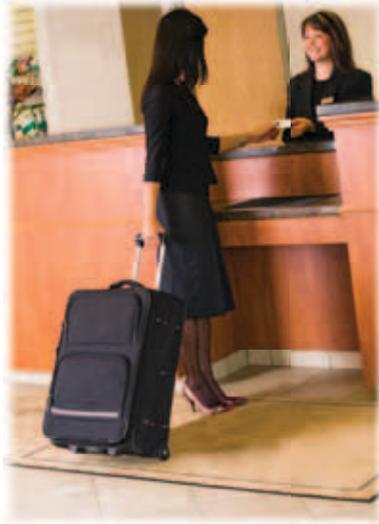
**Extinguish a candle if it smokes, flickers repeatedly, or the flame becomes too high.** *The candle isn't burning properly and the flame isn't controlled. Let the candle cool, trim the wick, then check for drafts before re-lighting.*

**Never use a candle as a night light.**

## Hotels

### Be safe when traveling

- Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.
- When you check in, ask the front desk what the fire alarm sounds like.
- When you enter your room, review the escape plan posted in your room.
- Take the time to find the exits and count the number of doors between your room and the exit. Make sure the exits are unlocked. If they are locked, report it to management right away.
- Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire.
- If the alarm sounds, leave right away, closing all doors behind you.
- Use the stairs — never use elevators during a fire.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.
- If you can't escape ... Shut off fans and air conditioners. Stuff wet towels in the crack around the doors. Call the fire department and let them know your location. Wait at the window and signal with a flashlight or light colored cloth.



## LEBANON CEMETERY of Apple Valley

Preplanning your cemetery arrangements is a loving gift to your family at a time of tremendous grief. If you are considering Lebanon Cemetery, staff is ready to assist you. There are a number of ways you can begin. An information packet can be mailed to you, or the information can be found at the City website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). (Go to City Services and then Cemetery.) You are welcome to visit the cemetery, which is located on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road. Lebanon Cemetery is owned by the City of Apple Valley and is open all year from sunrise to sunset. Entrance is from eastbound County Road 42 or northbound Pilot Knob Road. Another way to get started is to meet with Cemetery staff who can explain the choices for traditional and cremation burials.



Please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400** or [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us) for information or to meet with Cemetery staff.