

# CityNews



FALL 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## FALL CLEAN-UP DAY



**Mattresses and Boxsprings:** \$15.00 each;  
**Baby Mattresses:** \$5.00 each  
**Miscellaneous:** Volume based (\$50.00/  
average pickup load)

### Materials NOT Accepted:

Leaves or Grass • Brush or Tree Trimmings  
Regular Home Recyclables • Business  
Waste • Railroad Ties • Appliances\*  
Household Hazardous Wastes \* • Car  
Batteries \* • Motor Oil & Filters \* • Electronics \*

\* **On September 28, from 9:00am-2:00pm,**  
**Dakota County residents** can bring  
electronics and household hazardous waste  
to the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-  
Off Day Burnsville Maintenance Center  
13713 Frontier Ct., Burnsville, MN, 55337.  
For more information call **952-895-4511** or  
visit [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org).

### Appliances Special Pick-Up Day

Monday, September 30, 2013  
Call J.R.'s Appliance at **651-454-9215**,  
Certified Appliance Recycling at  
**952-894-1448** or A-1 Recycling Center at  
**612-521-1443** to schedule a pick-up and  
obtain fee information.

You must call before noon on Thursday,  
September 26. Acceptable appliances  
include: freezers, dryers, refrigerators,  
washers, furnaces, garbage disposals,  
dishwashers, water heaters, stoves, trash  
comp., air conditioners, microwaves,  
dehumidifiers, heat pumps. Do not bring  
appliances to clean-up site.

### Proof of Residency Required

Call **952-953-2702** for more information.

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

ECRWSS  
RESIDENTIAL  
CUSTOMER

**Residential Fall Clean-Up Day Saturday,**  
**September 28, 2013, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

### NEW LOCATION

**Apple Valley Family Aquatic Center**  
**14421 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, AV**

Here is your opportunity to clean out your  
house or garage and properly dispose of  
unwanted materials. The following article  
breaksdown what can and cannot be  
accepted and the fees associated with  
dropping off materials.

### Materials Accepted:

**Car Tires:** \$5.00ea. • **Semi Tires** \$10.00ea.,  
**Tractor Tires** \$25.00 ea.

### Furniture:

**Recliners** \$15.00 ea. • **Couch** \$15.00 ea.,  
**Sofa Hide-a-bed** \$25.00 ea.,  
**Wooden Chairs** \$5.00 ea.

**Scrap Metal:** \$7.00 minimum (*small items,*  
*bikes, propane tanks*), \$10.00 minimum (*lg.*  
*items, lawnmowers, grills, snow blowers*)

**Home remodeling debris:** Volume based  
(\$50.00/avg pickup load)

**Carpet and Padding:** \$1.00/sq. yd. each  
(provide approx. dimensions)

### Mayor:

Mary Hamann-Roland

### Council Members:

John Bergman  
Thomas Goodwin  
Ruth Grendahl  
Clint Hooppaw





## Dial 9-1-1? Yes, Dial 9-1-1!

Remember when you meant to call for phone information on 4-1-1 and accidentally called 9-1-1? Did you slam down the phone and spend the rest of the day nervous about getting in trouble? Did you wait and speak to the emergency operator and tell her all about the imaginary child at your home that had made the call? Or did you share a long conversation with the dispatcher that included revelations of how you were only trying to find a plumber to fix the outside faucet that your neighbor's cousin had tied their St. Bernard to and that, of course, you would never dial 9-1-1?

9-1-1 was originally created as a universal emergency number throughout the United States. Implementation at both its basic and enhanced service levels allowed almost anyone almost anywhere to use a phone to request emergency help from local police, fire, and ambulance services. Residents and visitors were taught to use the number whenever they saw fire, illegal activity, or extreme medical issues.

Since 2008, Apple Valley and the other cities in Dakota County have transitioned to and participated in a consolidated dispatch center that serves as the hub of the emergency preparedness and public safety wheel. At the time, residents were told that this shift away from community based to central emergency reporting would result in an extremely efficient and effective practice to dispatch emergency calls throughout Dakota County. Five years later, the innovative concept has become standard procedure and provides the quality level of emergency response that had been promised.

However, there's still a bump on the consumer (you) side of the road that needs to be smoothed out. The days of only using 9-1-1 for high level obvious emergencies are behind us. The Apple Valley Fire and Police Departments want you to help them help you by using 9-1-1 for emergency and non-emergency situations.

Dispatchers and call-takers who answer the 9-1-1 lines at the Dakota Communications Center are highly trained individuals that will listen to your concerns and be able to provide the appropriate

response for the situation. Callers will be asked a series of questions that will enable the dispatcher on the other end of the line to make the determination of what type of action is needed.

This urge for citizens to use 9-1-1 for both emergency and non-emergency calls is not just a city or county initiative. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management have begun a "If you SEE Something, SAY Something" campaign that calls for everyone to report suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1. It is their belief that local residents know better than anyone else when something just isn't right, and they know that a simple call to 9-1-1 can provide the most efficient response to any situation.

Still aren't sure if you should call 9-1-1? Here are some examples of what the Police, Fire, Ambulance, and Emergency Management agencies identify as appropriate reasons for you to call 9-1-1:

- You observe activity that just doesn't seem right.
- Your smoke and/or carbon monoxide alarm is going off but you don't see anything wrong.
- You've seen an accident, fire, or crime.
- You think someone may need medical help.
- The car alarm down the street won't stop.
- Something is missing from your home or yard.
- You've received several unsettling phone calls.
- Your neighbors are making too much noise.
- You think there is a funny smell in your home or neighborhood.
- A recreational fire in your neighborhood seems unsafe
- You have any type of parking complaint.
- Someone is taking pictures of doors and windows at public buildings.
- You see an unattended package in a public area.
- There are lights on in a house you are sure is vacant.

Your local authorities still want and need to hear from you on their regular telephone lines as well. Their numbers are answered during regular business hours and provide you with the ability to leave messages on voicemail during off hours or when they are on another call. There are plenty of questions to be directed to and answered by them to include;

- Police and/or fire reports
- Questions about curfew
- Questions about snow plowing
- Safety education information
- Requests for tours
- General information
- Building requirements
- Licensing information
- Permit requests
- When is the parade? Or fireworks? Or Booya!

The Apple Valley Fire and Police Departments thank you for helping us help you!

## Who Gets the Money Collected from Traffic Citations?

We occasionally receive questions asking about the money resulting from traffic citations. Here are answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions.

**Q:** Does the City use citations as a way to make money?  
**A:** No - citations are for enforcement of traffic violations, not for a source of city revenues. While the city receives a portion of any paid fine, the city's portion is minimal. In Dakota County, a basic speeding ticket is \$120.00. The \$120 is allocated as follows among the city, county, and state:

1. \$75.00 Surcharge goes to the state
2. \$5.00 Law library fee goes to Dakota County.
3. \$40.00 Fine is allocated 66.7% to the city & 33.3% to the State.

Thus of the \$120 speeding Ticket, the city will receive \$26.68. The state will receive \$88.32. If the ticket is a parking ticket, however, 100% of the amount will go to the city, but the surcharge and library fees still apply. If a traffic ticket is issued by state patrol, the city receives only 33.3% of the fine and 66.7% goes to the state.

**Q:** How much money has the City of Apple Valley received from traffic citations?

**A:** In 2012, the city of Apple Valley received \$275,838 in fine money for citations issued in Apple Valley. That money goes into the City's general fund which is used to help pay for public safety operations.

**Q:** Are police officers required to issue a certain amount of traffic citations each month?

**A:** No, in fact, quotas for traffic tickets are against the law. Minnesota Statute 169.985 states, "A law enforcement agency may not order, mandate, require, or suggest to a peace officer a quota for the issuance of traffic citations..."



## End of Season To-Do List

As summer winds down, here are some items to add to your list of things to do. Make sure to drain all outside garden hose connections and your lawn irrigation system including opening the ports on the backflow protection device to prevent costly damage to your plumbing system.

Remember to call for a final inspection if you have finished your home improvement project. This may include new roofing or siding, or replacing your furnace, air conditioner, or water heater. All of these projects require building permits and inspections. If you hired a contractor to do the work, make sure the inspection has passed before paying them to help protect your interests.

## Fall Yard Care Tips

Fall is coming, and as we try to enjoy the last of our sunny seventy degree days, it may be tough to tear ourselves away to get some essential lawn chores done. Fall is a time when we lay the groundwork for a successful spring. Here are some items we should be checking off our to-do list to keep our yards in tiptop shape:

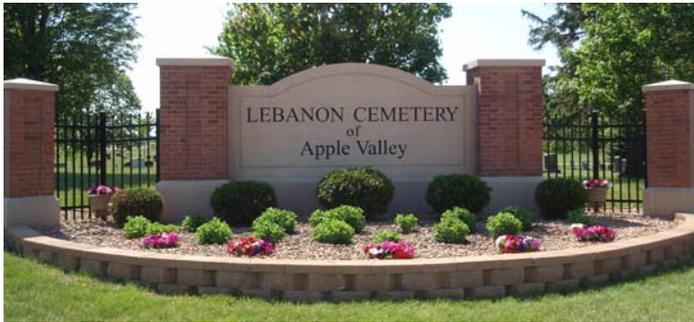
Fall is the time to fertilize. Fertilizing in the fall before the ground is frozen promotes healthy root growth in your lawn. Be sure to use a zero phosphorus fertilizer (middle number is zero) unless establishing a new lawn or a soil test has indicated a phosphorus deficiency. For information, see <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>.

Consider planting. You can often get deals on plants this time of year with decent survivability rates. Fall is actually the best time to seed grass and water saving native plants. Visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) to find out how to incorporate plants native to Minnesota in your yard. Keep street curb and gutter free of leaves. Leaves contain high amounts of phosphorus that promotes algae growth in local lakes and ponds. Just 5 bags of leaves have enough phosphorus to produce 300 pounds of algae. Leaves can be disposed of in compost piles, by dropping off at composting facilities, or through your trash hauler depending on their company policies. See <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/EnvironmentRoads/EnvirProtect/Composting>.

Store away rainbarrels. Water that freezes in your rainbarrel can damage it. One simple method is to place the empty barrel upside down so water cannot collect over winter.

To learn more about fall yard care, view the Blue Thumb Year-Round Guide to Yard Care on the "Why" page of [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org). For more information on Apple Valley natural resources, call 952-953-2462.





## Lebanon Cemetery Volunteers

A big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who assist with plant care, pick up litter, and mark the graves of veterans at Lebanon Cemetery. They help provide a beautiful place for families and friends who are visiting the graves of loved ones. The City of Apple Valley appreciates and thanks them for the time and effort given. Michael Wiklund, Jim Wick, Jack Wallace, Jay and Deb Hoekstra Laurel and Leroy Frerichs, Marla and Dale Danielson, Appleseeds 4-H Club, Mary, Sam, Matt, and Megan Anderson

## Lawn Burial Options at Lebanon Cemetery

Lebanon Cemetery of Apple Valley provides a beautiful setting for cremation and casket lawn burials. Cremation lots are smaller and can have one, possibly two, cremations buried in them. Larger lots accommodate casket burials and can have up to three burials: one casket and one or two cremations, or three cremations. For more information or to schedule an individual appointment to meet with a cemetery representative, please contact Public Works at 952-953-2400 or [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us), or visit City Services at [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org).

## Sanitary Sewer Information

Wastewater is the water from sinks, showers, tubs, toilets, and washing machines. This water flows from your home into the sanitary sewer system and must be treated at a wastewater treatment plant before it can be safely discharged into the environment.

### Tip 1 – Watch What Goes Down the Drain:

The sewer line leaving your home is not a trash can. Improper disposal of the items listed below can cause a sewer backup up to an individual property owners' sewer line or in the City main.



Food residue containing fats, oils, and grease (FOG) should be disposed of in the trash. NEVER down the drain or toilet. Store grease in a container. Let it harden; then dispose of it in the trash. Wipe FOG residue from pans with a paper towel before washing and put the towel in the trash, or simply scrape FOG residue into the trash using a spatula and wash the spatula with the pans. Place a strainer in the kitchen sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids. Empty the strainer into the trash.



Non-biodegradable wipes and towelettes should be disposed of in the trash never down the drain. Examples include baby wipes, cleaning wipes, makeup remover wipes. These items do not break down and are a major contributor to sewer backups



Cat litter, diapers, hair, cigarettes, cotton balls, q-tips, lint, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, and tissues all belong in the trash; not down the toilet or sink. Use a fine screen in your shower drain to catch hair, and on the laundry discharge hose to catch lint.



Compost whenever possible. Coffee grounds, eggshells, and most cooking residue can be composted or should go in the garbage. Meat, cheese, bones, and dairy products should not be composted.



Old medicines should not be put in the trash or down the drain. The Apple Valley Police Department has a drop box in the Police Department lobby, 7100 147th Street. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information, visit <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingDisposalGuide/HouseholdItems/Pages/medicine.aspx> Dispose of household hazardous waste materials at Dakota County's The Recycling Zone, 651-905-4520, not down the drain.

### Tip 2 – Perform Preventative Maintenance:

Periodically clean the sewer lateral (sewer line) from your house to the street. Contractors are listed under Plumbing in the yellow pages of the phone book.

### Tip 3 – Call Public Works:

If you have a sewer backup and do not know the cause of the blockage, contact Public Works to determine if the problem is in the City's sewer line rather than yours.

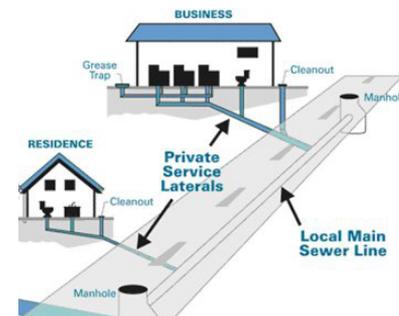
**952-953-2400** (Public Works)

Monday – Friday

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

**952-322-2323** (Dakota Communication Center)

After hours, weekends  
and holidays



## Sump Pump Information

Many homes have sump pumps to capture and remove water that would otherwise result in a damp basement. The clear water pumped may be groundwater and is often the result of rain or snow melt. Sump pumps quietly pump water year after year doing an under-appreciated job and demand little in terms of daily maintenance. However, some attention is necessary to avoid problems. Consider the following tips if your home has a sump pump.

### Tip 1 – Follow the Rules:

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 sump pump installation is rigid PVC pipe running from the pump to the outside of the house. The water is then discharged onto the grass.

### Tip 2 – Know the Difference:

Clear water (I&I) does not require treatment as wastewater does. 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.

### Tip 3 – The Preseason Check:

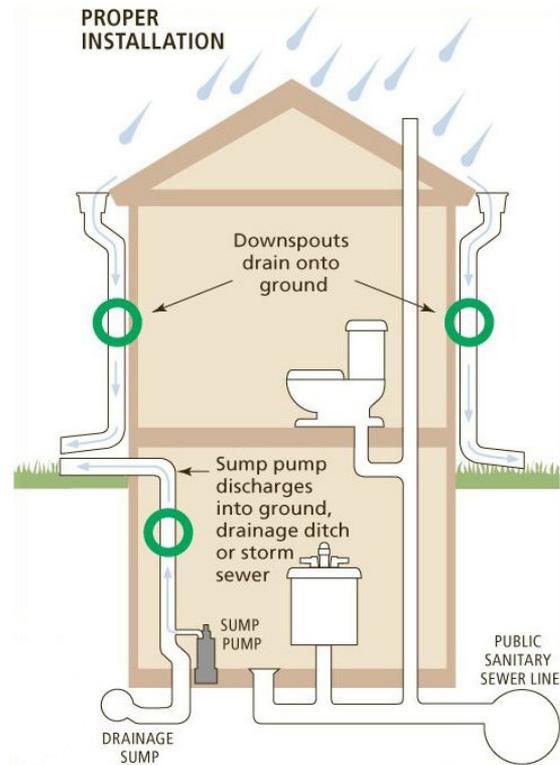
If your sump pump does not run during winter, you should perform a test run before April showers bring May flowers (and a wet basement). Add water to the sump pit to make sure the pump is working properly. Perform a visual check that the pump is actually discharging water, as a faulty pump can run without pumping any water. Listen for strange noises coming from the pump motor.

### Tip 4 – Proper Sump Hose Etiquette:

Perform a visual inspection of the discharge hose. The sump pump should discharge water onto your lawn. Use this quasi-free water for lawn irrigation. If your pump is discharging water directly at the outer house wall, you are likely just pumping water in a continuous circle as it seeps back down under the basement. Be a good neighbor and avoid discharging water across public sidewalks and trails or onto adjacent property.

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

For an animation on sump pumps, you can view Sump Pump Flash Animation at <http://mn-applevalley.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=370>.



## Think Before You Dump

The storm drain on your street or in your backyard is directly connected to a neighborhood lake, pond, or wetland. Water and substances entering the drain are not cleaned or otherwise treated. If it goes down the drain, it goes into the lake. If it's left on the street, sidewalk, or driveway, it will be washed into the lake when it next rains. Help keep local lakes, wetlands, and ponds clean by sweeping spilled substances off of driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Never pour anything down the storm drain. Only rain down the drain.



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – DIAL 8-1-1

Remember to call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before you do any digging. State law requires anyone doing any excavating to call GSOC at least 48 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays). When you call GSOC, they notify companies with underground utilities in the area. If the companies determine an underground utility could be affected by your digging, they will mark the area with paint or flags. Call **651-454-0002**, or **811** for GSOC.



## Buckthorn Management

Buckthorn is an invasive plant species introduced into the United States from Europe many years ago, and today is commonly found in most natural and wooded areas. If left unmanaged, buckthorn generally will out-compete with native understory plants and become the dominant plant species. Property owners are encouraged to remove buckthorn to sustain and/or promote native plant communities.

The Apple Valley Public Works Department will assist residents with buckthorn management by providing on-site consultation and use of City-owned pulling tools. Residents can make arrangements with their private waste hauler to dispose of buckthorn material. Buckthorn wood is safe to store and use for firewood. Buckthorn can also be disposed at Resource Recovery Technologies, 16454 Blaine Avenue, Empire (651-423-4401).

Residents can reserve a City-owned buckthorn removal tool to pull buckthorn out of the ground (\$200 security deposit required). These tools are designed to pull buckthorn plants with relative ease. Pulling buckthorn eliminates the need for chemical stump treatment. Buckthorn plants larger than 2-inch diameter are usually best removed by cutting at ground level and treating each stump chemically to kill the root system.

Additional buckthorn information can be found on the City website or by calling the Public Works Department at 952-953-2460.

## 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.

## 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 Channel 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:

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

#### Apple Valley Hook & Ladder:

<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.	<b>Monday</b> 1:30 a.m.
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday</b> 1:30 a.m.
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	<b>Friday</b> 1:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b> 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)