

CITY OF MEDFORD

NEWSLETTER



A Word from the Administrator

In 2008, Council began evaluating whether to build a new fire hall and city hall. The City discussed purchasing land for a future facility, and took action by acquiring the lot where the ice rinks and Medford Veteran's Memorial are located. In 2009, members of the Council and fire department explored the possibility of either adding onto the existing fire hall and city hall complex or building a new building. The group's work resulted in the Medford Fire Station Study which was proposed to Council in March of 2010. The goal was to build a new facility in 5-10 years.

In 2015, Council discussed the project during a work session. Council took a comprehensive look at the City's bonding capacity and long-term capital projects (city hall and fire hall complex, streets, trails, park facilities). In August of 2015, a City Facilities Work Group was appointed and charged with the task of reviewing current city facilities and developing a recommendation to be presented to Council.

During the first meeting of the City Facilities Work Group, members were given a tour of the city hall, fire hall, and public works garage and shop. Committee members were presented with a list of options to consider that ranged from the original 2009 proposal to a scaled back proposal that included building a new city shop and fire bay. The Facilities Committee evaluated the needs and wants of the fire department and City. After reviewing the needs and wants list, the committee narrowed down the building options to recommend to Council. The committee chose the original 2009 option; and to have an alternate set of preliminary architectural documents prepared (after looking at other communities recently built complexes).

The City applied for and received an AgStar grant to pay for a portion of the cost of preparing an alternative set of preliminary architectural plans. Since receiving the grant, a work group has been working with Brunton Architects to develop a co-located fire hall and city hall facility to meet the needs identified by the City Facilities Work Group.

Based upon the initial square footage and preferred construction materials requested by the Fire Department and City, the architect estimated the project would cost approximately \$3.1 million.

The City Facilities Work Group and Council have discussed putting the co-located fire hall and city hall facility to a referendum vote (placed on the ballot for residents to decide). At this time, the working group continues to work with the architect and the City is exploring financing options. If Council continues to move forward with planning, more information will be provided to residents.



HOUSING STUDY

The City of Medford is planning on joining the City of Owatonna and other Steele County communities to conduct a housing study. Housing studies analyze a community's existing housing stock ranging from available lots to owner occupied housing and rental units. Community and regional demographics are compiled and compared with housing stock information. After thorough analysis of the data, predictions are made in an attempt to align housing stock with future demand. Many communities use the results of housing studies for planning. Developers use housing studies to determine the type and quantity of housing they will build to meet future demand.

If you or someone you know is looking for a townhouse or type of housing not currently available in Medford, please contact City Hall (507) 455-2866. City staff will record the information and pass it along to the Medford Economic Development Authority (EDA). The EDA will evaluate the response to determine if action is needed to meet housing needs.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's Community Growth Initiative has been utilized by many communities throughout southeastern Minnesota to improve communities. Communities have implemented projects ranging from creating downtown business façade improvements, new resident welcoming initiatives and establishing community foundations to working on biking and walking trails. In order for a Community Growth Initiative to be successful, a minimum of ten to fifteen committed community residents are needed to champion initiatives that are chosen by the committed community members. If you are interested in working with other community members to implement projects that will improve the community of Medford, please call (507) 455-2866 or email City Administrator Andy Welti at medford@medfordminnesota.com

City of Medford - Summary of Ordinances

The City of Medford receives several citizen complaints each year, and those citizen complaints consume a significant amount of City staff time to resolve. In addition, code violations may lead to tension between neighbors. The City wants to promote strong, positive neighbor relations, and the City encourages you, as a first step, to talk to neighbors to try to resolve issues. Please review this sheet of commonly violated ordinances and take the appropriate action to bring your property into compliance with Medford City Code. A copy of the entire City Code may be accessed at our web site, www.medfordminnesota.com or at the Medford City Hall.

ANNUAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

The State of Minnesota required Cities to adopt a water conservation policy. Medford requires odd/even sprinkling based on street addresses and is in effect from May 1 to September 30 each year for all non-government facilities. Water cannot be used for the purposes of irrigating or watering lawn, sod or seeded areas between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily. There is an exception for new lawns.

NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS

It is the duty of the owner, agent, lessor or occupant of every house or other building except barns, garages, and other buildings which are part of the same property with a numbered house or building, to place on every such building a property street number.

PARKS

No person shall be present in any City Park between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. without a permit. No fires in a City Park except for in the charcoal grills.

SWIMMING POOLS

Residents must obtain a building permit to construct, excavate or erect a swimming pool within the City.

SIGNS

No sign shall be erected, altered, reconstructed, maintained or moved in the city without first obtaining a permit.

PROHIBITIONS ON STORM WATER DRAINAGE

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any "storm water drainage" into any sanitary sewer system.

PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS

A person engaged in peddling, soliciting or in the business of a transient merchant must obtain a permit from the City.

REGISTRATION OF RENTAL HOUSING UNITS

No owner of a dwelling shall allow another person to occupy any rental dwelling unit without first obtaining a registration certificate from the City. All rental housing units are required to apply for a certificate, pay an inspection fee, and have an inspection prior to renting out the dwelling.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow off sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of the snow event.

DEPOSITING SNOW ONTO STREETS

It is a misdemeanor for any person, not acting under a specific contract with the City or without special permission from the City, to remove snow or ice from private property and deposit it on any public street.

MAILBOXES

In the event street maintenance or snowplowing causes damage to mail receptacles situated on City property it shall be the responsibility and obligation of the respective property owners to repair the mail receptacles.

WEIGHT LIMITATIONS ON CITY STREETS

No vehicle or combination of vehicles larger than 3 ton gross weight per axle or combination thereof to be operated upon the public streets and roads of the City of Medford except those streets controlled by the County of Steele.

City of Medford - Summary of Ordinances

STANDING VEHICLES

No person shall park, stop or leave a standing vehicle larger than 3 ton gross axle weight whether attended or unattended on any street or highway except by special permit. Any motor vehicle in excess of 9,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or in excess of 22 feet in length shall not be parked for more than 4 hours on any public property within any residential district of the City.

PARKING ON CITY STREETS

No vehicles, including trailers, campers, boats, etc. shall be parked or left unattended on any street, public parking lot or alley for 48 hours or more unless otherwise posted.

SNOWMOBILES

Snowmobiles can only be ridden on the most right-hand lane of any street which is used for vehicle traffic in the same direction. Snowmobiles are not allowed on public sidewalks, boulevards, or private property without permission.

REGULATION OF SPECIAL VEHICLES

Permits are required for all special vehicles operated on public streets. Special vehicles include 4-wheelers, golf carts, or other ATVs.

DISCHARGE OF FIRE ARMS

No person shall discharge any gun, revolver, pistol, or fire arm of any kind that utilizes an explosive powder to expel anything. Exceptions would be law enforcement officers, military and acting in self defense.

CURFEW

Curfew for minor children under the age of 18 is from 12:00 AM-5:00 AM on Friday and Saturday and 11:00 PM-5:00 AM on every other night.

MEDFORD CITY HALL
408 2nd Ave SE
Medford, MN 55049
(507) 455-2866

DOGS

All dogs need to be licensed with the City. Proof of rabies vaccination is required to register a dog. All dogs must be kept from running at large. Impound fees apply for all dogs captured and held in the City pound.

CATS

No person shall own or possess any cat which destroys, damages, or defiles property or which creates an offense by way of noise, odor, or is in heat and unconfined.

BURNING

Recreational fires are allowed in the City as long as the diameter of the fire is no more than 3 feet. The height must not exceed 3 feet from base to tip. Burning of refuse or trash is prohibited.

NUISANCES

- Accumulations of disused machinery, household appliances, lumber or building materials.
- Depositing grass clippings or leaves in City streets.
- Accumulations of manure, trash, unsightly litter or other debris.
- All weeds and grasses over 6 inches tall, or which have gone to seed.
- Obstructions which prevent people from having a clear view of all traffic approaching an intersection
- Operating a motor vehicle in violation of motor vehicle noise rules adopted by the PCA. No Jake Braking. No unnecessarily loud or noisy vehicle operation.
- Automobile bodies and parts or any incapacitated vehicle which is incapable of movement under its own power and is parked or stored outside for more than 10 days.
- Any unlicensed vehicle which does not have a valid and current license plate.

A full copy of Medford city ordinances can be found
on the city website:
www.medfordminnesota.com

The City of Medford and the Owatonna Housing and Redevelopment Authority want to make you aware of programs and funding to make improvements to owner-occupied homes in the City of Medford. The grants and low interest loans are intended to help homeowners make improvements that will maintain quality affordable housing for low and moderate income households in Medford.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)

Fix Up Loans

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency is partnering with Local Banks to provide affordable loans via the *Fix-up Fund* for secured and unsecured loans. Offering affordable, fixed interest rates. **You can hire a contractor or do the work yourself!**

Longer repayment terms mean lower monthly payments.

1. Unsecured Loan – with NO equity requirement – borrow up to \$15,000
2. Secured Loan – Secured with a mortgage – borrow up to \$50,000

To be eligible, you must:

- Not exceed the maximum household income limit of **\$96,500**
- Meet credit requirements (score of 620 minimum for secured; score of 680 minimum for unsecured)
- Own and occupy the property

Some examples of improvements you could make

- Furnace or boiler, central air conditioning, windows, doors, insulation, water heater, siding, roofing, septic system, mold mitigation, basic garage, if none exists

Contact Local Banks:

United Prairie Bank 451-6300 Wells Federal 444-0010

Semcac – Rushford office

Community Fix-Up Fund Loan Program - Contact: Vonda Budde 507-864-8241

The Community Fix Up Initiative has loans available for improving or preserving your home. Semcac housing staff administers the funds. The minimum loan amount that can be borrowed is \$2,000 and the maximum is \$15,000.

Rehab Loan Program - Contact: Cindy Vitse | 507-864-8207

This Minnesota Housing Finance Agency loan program helps low-income homeowners make their homes more livable, accessible, and energy efficient. Eligible improvements include plumbing, electrical wiring, roofing, heating, accessibility improvements, and remedy of any defect preventing the structure from meeting code requirements. This loan places a 15-year mortgage on the property and is forgivable after 15 years only if it has remained the owner's principal place of residence. For mobile homes in a mobile home park, the term of the loan is 10 years.

- 80% of Area Median Income - Low Income Homeowner
- 15 Year Deferred Loan – Homeowner must remain in home for term of loan/owner’s principle place of residence/ forgiven after loan term.
- Plumbing, electrical, roofing, heating, accessibility improvements and remedy of any defects preventing the structure from meeting code requirements.

Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded program that provides energy conservation home improvements to reduce energy consumption costs. Each home is inspected before and after work is done in order to ensure that homes are more energy efficient upon project completion. Improvements may include exterior wall and attic insulation, air infiltration and bypass sealing, and the testing, repair or replacement of the home’s mechanical systems to ensure efficiency and safety.

Priority is given to households with at least one senior citizen, individual with a disability or child, or to households with the highest heating costs.

The Weatherization Assistance Program also provides the following:

- Education to consumers regarding home energy efficiency and safety.
- Energy audits to evaluate home energy usage.
- Conservation Improvement Programs in collaboration with local utilities and fuel suppliers.

USDA Rural Development – Intake office: Austin 507-437-8247, Ext 4

Rural Repair and Rehabilitation Loans and Grants

Purpose: The Very Low-Income Housing Repair program provides loans and grants to very low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards.

Eligibility: To obtain a loan, homeowner-occupants must be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere and must have very low incomes, defined as below 50 percent of the area median income. They must need to make repairs and improvements to make the dwelling more safe and sanitary or to remove health and safety hazards. Grants are only available to homeowners who are 62 years old or older and cannot repay a Section 504 loan. For income and property eligibility contact USDA Rural Development at the above listed number.

Terms: Loans of up to \$20,000 and grants of up to \$7,500 are available. Loans are for up to 20 years at 1% interest. A real estate mortgage and full title services are required for loans of \$7,500 or more. Grants may be recaptured if the property is sold in less than 3 years. Grant funds may be used only to pay for repairs and improvements resulting in the removal of health and safety hazards. A grant/loan combination is made if the applicant can repay part of the cost. Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance.

Standards: Repaired properties do not need to meet other HCFP code requirements, but the installation of water and waste systems and related fixtures must meet local health department requirements. Water supply and sewage disposal systems should normally meet HCFP requirements. Not all the health and safety hazards in a home must be removed with Section 504 funds, provided that major health and safety hazards are removed. All work must meet local codes and standards.

Overview:

- Unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere
- 50% of Area Median Income – very low income households
- Loans up to \$20,000 at 1% for up to 20 years. Grants up to \$7500. Loans and grants can be combined. Grants only available to homeowners age 62 or older.
- Health and safety hazards – plumbing, sewer and septic, electrical, siding roofing, windows, accessibility.

Medford Muni Bar & Liquor Store

203 N Main St
451-5821

Hours - M-F 11:00-1:00 AM
Sat - 10:00-1:00 AM and
Sundays Noon-6:00 PM

Monday - \$2.50 Domestic Taps ALL DAY

Tuesday - \$2.00 Domestic Beers 8-9 p.m.

Wednesday - \$4.50 Colorado Bulldogs ALL DAY

Thursday - 2 for 1's - 8-9 p.m.

Friday - \$3.25 Glass of Wine ALL DAY

Saturday - Bloody Mary Bar - 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - \$4.50!



HAPPY HOUR

Hours - M-F Noon-1 PM
and 4 PM-6 PM

Saturday 11 AM -1 PM

Sunday 1 PM - 2 PM



Now offering wine - Purchase by the bottle or the glass!! Pinot Grigio, Riesling, or Merlot



Pay your utility bills on-line! Click on the link at the right side of the home page under New Resident and Utility Info.

The City of Medford's website has information on utilities, garbage, recycling, composting, rental housing, parks, business resources, job opportunities, and many important topics. Check out the City's website at www.medfordminnesota.com

The City has a Facebook site that is updated regularly with announcements. Follow the City of Medford on Facebook.



Straight River
Days Dance
June 18th
Copperhead
Creek Band!

Buy Local

When you purchase goods and services from Medford businesses, you are supporting local jobs, returning money back to the local economy, and a small portion of sales tax is returned to the City of Medford to help pay for water and sewer infrastructure.

Coupon

"Free" Drink Chip

With the Purchase of a
Case of Beer.

Expires May 20th, 2016

Coupon

\$2.00 off

Any Bottle of Wine
Expires May 20th, 2016

The Medford Pool will be Open on June 5th!



Swimming lessons are available throughout the summer. Registration begins up at the Medford School on Monday, May 9, 2016 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Registrations will be taken at City Hall after May 9 until the pool opens. Please fill out one registration form for each child. Scholarships now available (income requirements apply), please call City Hall for more information!

Check out the City website for the swimming lesson registration forms, the pool schedule, the swimming lesson schedule, and the scholarship application

Medford Park Endowment Fund

The Purpose of the dedicated endowment fund is to provide money to the City of Medford for new equipment, and or repairs to existing equipment, in City parks.

Over the years, many people have donated money as a memorial for their loved ones who have passed away. People have also donated money as a gift because of their love for the parks.

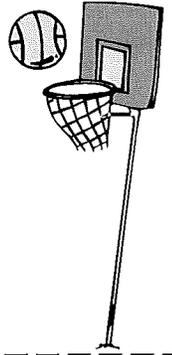
To make a contribution to the Medford Park Endowment, please mail your contribution to: City of Medford, c/o Medford Park Endowment Fund, 408 2nd Ave SE, Medford, MN 55049

*Please write on the check's memo line or on a paper enclosed with your contribution "Medford Park Endowment Fund"



Don't forget to register your dog with the City! Proof of rabies vaccination is required.

The City has received comments from residents regarding basketball hoops being placed near streets. For the safety of kids and motorists, please keep basketball hoops and play areas off City streets.



Frank Woodfill Wildlife Refuge

Frank Woodfill Wildlife Refuge is one of the City's hidden gems. The park is located 1 mile south of Medford on the west side of Steele County Road 45 (Main Street). If you are looking for a place to take a stroll, relax, enjoy nature, view wildlife and watch the Straight River flow by, then check out the park. In addition, the park includes a landing for canoes and kayaks.

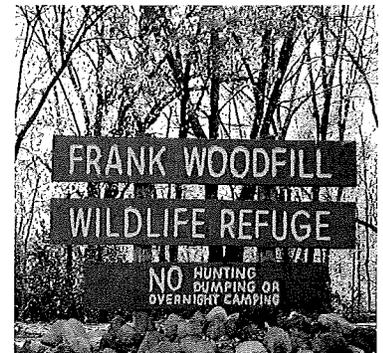


Rent a Straight River Park pavilion for your event!

Large pavilion is \$75.00 with a \$55.00 deposit.

Small pavilion is \$50.00 with a \$40.00 deposit.

Call City Hall to reserve your date!



Leave No Trace!

City parks are enjoyed every day by many Medford residents. Please help keep the parks clean by placing your garbage or the garbage left behind by others in trash containers.

Straight River Days is just around the corner! Come out and enjoy the events on June 17th and 18th. City wide garage sales, parade, kiddie tractor pull, music in the park, and so much more! Visit www.straightriverdays.com for all the information!

Special Thank-you to our Veterans for the work they have done to build the Veterans Memorial!