

green talk



City Council Approves the Keeping of Goats for Grazing

The City Council recently approved an Ordinance allowing the keeping of Goats for Grazing. Goats will be allowed in the City with the issuance of a permit for prescribed grazing on specified property for a defined period for the purpose of controlling invasive, noxious, or unwanted vegetation including buckthorn.

The Environmental Commission recommended the Ordinance to the City Council. The Ordinance requires completion of an application and payment of a \$50.00 fee. The conditions of granting a permit include the following:



1. Parcel or lot that is 0.5 acres or more in size;
2. No more than one (1) goat per every one-tenth (0.10) acre of the prescribed grazing area shall be on the premises at one-time under the permit;
3. Temporary fencing and structures will be required to prevent the escape and protect the goats;
4. Owners of the goats under the permit will be required to maintain insurance coverage specified in the Ordinance and shall provide proof prior to issuance of the permit.

Applications are available on the City's website — www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you pay your utility bills directly through PSN (Payment Service Network) or your bank, REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR DEBIT/CREDIT CARD NUMBERS/ EXPIRATION DATES when you get a new card in order to avoid late charges accruing to your account.



Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019-2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300.

Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing water conservation program. The City is offering \$50 rebates to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush.

Washing machines must be Energy Star-Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.

CITY FORESTER NEWS

Oak Pruning

Winter is the best time for pruning your oak trees. Here are some steps for having a successful pruning project:

1. Check the University of MN website www.myminnesotawoods.com homepage and confirm the pruning status of oak trees. The best period of time for pruning oaks is the status "safe." Consider your property and its proximity to oak wilt infection centers and the consequences of pruning in regards to oak wilt.
2. Identify the trees to be pruned. Look for dead branches, broken and hanging branches, branches on structures and any tree defects. Dead branches 2" in diameter and larger (the diameter of the branch where it is attached to the tree) are considered hazardous. Generally there are three levels of dead-wooding: Coarse (2" and larger in diameter), medium (1" and larger) and fine (1/2" and larger).
3. Define your objective for pruning. Are you trying to improve the appearance or make the trees safe? Perhaps you want to protect your home where there are branches rubbing. Maybe you have trees to remove. Defining in advance what your objectives are will streamline the process of getting bids.
4. Contact a tree pruning professional. Look for tree companies that have a certified arborist. The best companies are accredited TCIA tree care companies with certified arborists that follow the ANSI standards defined for tree pruning.
5. Meet with the arborist and discuss your objectives and the perimeters of the work you want done. Get a written proposal that defines the work to be done and the price of the work. Getting three bids is a good idea so you can see what the going rates are for the work and you can compare the bids to one another. Ask the arborist what his or her credentials are and what kind of experience their company has.
6. Choose the company to go with. Make sure there is agreement on the work, price, the equipment that will be used and the timing of the work. Confirm that the company is licensed in the City of Mahtomedi and has the proper insurance for the type of work they will be doing.

If you have questions regarding oak pruning or any of the pruning process you can call the Mahtomedi City Forester at **651-747-3736**.



Put Down the Rake, Try Mowing Instead

Looking for an easy way to skip raking leaves this time of the year? Try mowing them instead. Leaves have important nutrients like phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium, the same nutrients that can be found in compost and most commercial fertilizers. By using your mower to break the leaves into smaller pieces to later decompose, you're adding these important nutrients back to your lawn and this can even help to prevent weeds next spring. If you have a thick covering of leaves on your lawn, it may be beneficial to remove some of the excesses and add them to your garden, other landscaped areas, or offer for compost. Recycling our leaves on our lawns helps keep leaves out of stormwater conveyances, like streets, storm sewers, and ditches. Clean streets and stormwater conveyances can help to prevent clogging the system and localized flooding. It can also keep extra nutrients that feed algae blooms out of our local lakes and wetlands. Save yourself some time and energy this fall by mowing instead of raking your leaves.



Environmental Center



Open to residents of Washington, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Proof of county residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.co.washington.mn.us
651-430-6655

FREE Product Room

Pick up reusable paint, automotive products, cleaners and other products for free. Residents must be 18 years old to participate.

Drive through and drop it off

Household hazardous items such as paint, motor oil, fluorescent light bulbs, and electronics.

**4039 Cottage Grove Drive
Woodbury, MN 55129**

HOURS:
Tuesday:
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday/Friday:
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday:
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and other major holidays.

