

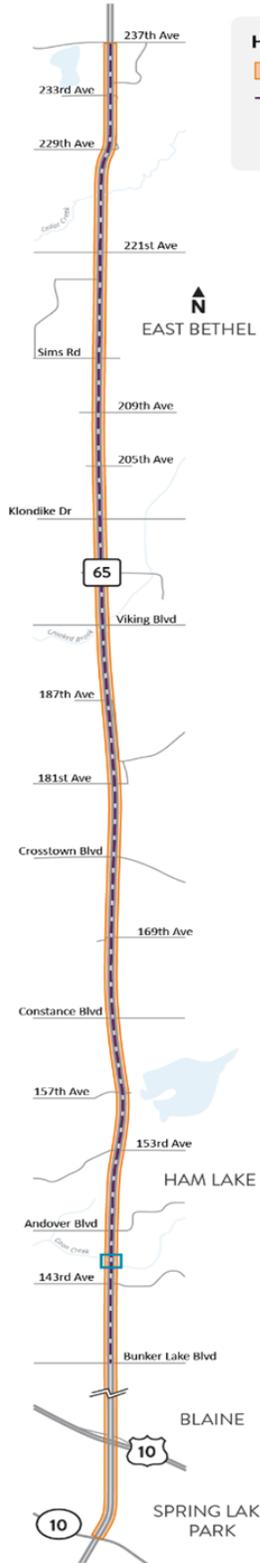
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 2024 Budget Update 2
- Notes from the Fire Department 2
- Fall Town Hall Meeting 2
- Storage Container Ordinance 3
- Winter Snow Reminders 3
- Mailbox Checklist 4
- Firearm Ordinances 4
- Note from Council Member Tim Miller 5
- ACD Tree Sale 5
- Autumn Recycling 6
- Protect Yourself: Swatting 7
- Booster Day 8
- Senior Dances 8
- CCESR Programs 9
- Septic System Freezing 10
- Election Judges Needed 11
- Community Events 12



## Preliminary Work Underway for 2024 Construction on Highway 65 between Spring Lake Park, East Bethel

By R. Kent Barnard,  
Minnesota Dept. of Transportation



As cooler weather returns to Minnesota, preliminary work is underway on Highway 65 between Anoka County Road 10/Mounds View Boulevard in Spring Lake Park and 237th Avenue in East Bethel. This year’s preparatory work, which began in mid-September, 2023, includes construction of four temporary crossovers to carry traffic across the median next year to allow traffic to travel in a single lane in each direction of the side of the roadway not under construction. Construction crews are also replacing 12 culverts along the 14.5 miles of highway between Spring Lake Park and East Bethel.

This year’s work will be completed by the end of November.

Resurfacing and repair work will begin in the spring of 2024 and motorists will encounter lane closures, single lane traffic and some full weekend closures with detours along stretches of the highway between Spring Lake Park and East Bethel. The project also will replace box culverts at Coon Creek and Viking Boulevard, reconstruct settled pavement, install cable median guardrail, improve drainage and install curb ramp and sidewalk improvements at several intersections.

Once completed by late fall of 2024, travelers will have a safer ride, with improved traffic flow, a smoother road surface and better accessibility. The project will also improve drainage, extend pavement life and provide safer access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

For more information and to stay informed through email updates, please visit the project website at: [www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy65slp-eastbethel/index.html](http://www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy65slp-eastbethel/index.html).

For updated road condition information, call 511 or visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).



## City Contacts



### MAYOR

Kevin Lewis .....651-357-6208  
kevin.lewis@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob DeRoche .....612-327-6631  
bob.deroche@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

Tim Miller .....612-387-6600  
timothy.miller@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

Brian Mundle.....763-227-0120  
brian.mundle@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

Jim Smith .....612-221-2028  
jim.smith@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

**CITY HALL** .....763-367-7840  
Fax .....763-434-9578  
2241 221st Ave NE  
East Bethel, MN 55011

Office Hours  
Monday—Friday  
8:00 AM—4:00 PM



Planning & Zoning  
.....763-367-7864  
Building Inspections  
.....763-367-7842  
Electrical Inspections  
.....763-434-4853



Emergency..... 911  
Anoka County Sheriff's Office  
.....763-427-1212  
East Bethel Fire Department  
.....763-367-7885



Public Works .....763-367-7876



City Assessor.....651-605-5125

## 2024 Budget Update By Mike Jeziorski, Finance Director

The City Council's review of the proposed 2024 budget was in July and continued in August. At the September 11, 2023 City Council meeting a preliminary tax levy and budget for 2024 was approved.

In November, property owners will receive their preliminary property tax statements for 2024. This notice will also indicate that the final 2024 budget will be discussed and considered for adoption at the December 11, 2023 City Council meeting. This is also the date that provides an opportunity for public input on the budget.



### SEPTIC SERVICES

- Compliance
- Design
- Installation
- Pumping Service & Repair

**EXCAVATING & SEWER WORK  
SINCE 1976**

# 763-434-1963

**www.CaspersServices.com**  
caspersservices76@gmail.com

## Notes from the Fire Department

### East Bethel Fire Department NOW HIRING

Looking for a purpose? Want some excitement in your life? Want to serve your community? Join the fire department! We will train you to be a first responder and firefighter. If you want to know if you have what it takes to be a firefighter, Contact us today! Call us at (763)367-7885 or email the Fire Chief at [rod.sanow@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:rod.sanow@ci.east-bethel.mn.us).



### East Bethel Fire Department Santa Parade Saturday, December 9th.

We are excited to announce that East Bethel Fire will be hosting a Santa Parade again this year! Santa will be in a fire truck and driving through your neighborhood along with other first responder vehicles. We will be collecting food donations for the NACE Food Shelf along the way. The parade route will be posted on the City of East Bethel Facebook page. We will be visiting different neighborhoods this year, so make sure to check it out to see if we are in your neighborhood! Come out and see Santa and bring a non-perishable food item for NACE!



## Fall Town Hall Meeting

# Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>



### Schedule:

- **Open House, 6-7 pm,**  
*East Bethel Senior Center*
- **Q & A Session, 7-8 pm**  
*Council Chambers*

# Ordinance Change to Permit Storage Containers

By Aaron Berg, Community Development Director

On 9/25/2023, the East Bethel City Council approved amendments to Sec. 10-4 and Sec. 14 to allow for storage containers to be placed on certain parcels of property in the city. A summary of the rules include but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Rural Residential and Agricultural Zoned Properties
- ⇒ Minimum 1 acre or greater in parcel size
- ⇒ 25 feet from any rear or side property lines
- ⇒ 20 feet from any septic (SSTS)
- ⇒ Minimum of a gravel base (1 inch in depth)
- ⇒ Limited to side or rear yards only
- ⇒ Must be free of text, graphics and/or graffiti
- ⇒ Neutral or color compatible with the primary residence
- ⇒ Less than 4 acres = maximum of one (1) storage container at 320 sq ft (8'x40')
- ⇒ 4 acres or more = one (1) storage container (320 sq ft plus an additional 80 sq ft for each acre)
- ⇒ No Building or Zoning Permit required

Questions related to storage containers, storage container placement or city zoning standards can be addressed by the Community Development Director, Aaron.Berg (763-367-7864 or [aaron.berg@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:aaron.berg@ci.east-bethel.mn.us)).

## Winter Garbage Cart Placement

Snowplow crews rely on residents' help to place garbage and recycling carts behind the curb when it is trash pick-up day. The City of East Bethel is reminding residents that carts placed in the street interfere with snowplowing operations and crews are unable to plow the streets from curb-to-curb.



- When you dig out your driveway, be sure to dig out a spot for your garbage can.
- Do not place garbage cans in the street. This creates a hazard as garbage cans could get hit by vehicles or snowplows. It is recommended that garbage cans be placed at least 2 feet off the edge of pavement into your driveway.
- Timing is everything. Putting your trash out the night before collection day can make life easier, but this puts your receptacle at risk of damage during nighttime snowplowing operations.
- Retrieve your garbage cans soon after collection. Garbage cans often sit at the roadside on collection day until the evening. Empty cans are vulnerable to winds and snow removal operations and could cause a hazard if knocked into the roadway.

## Snow Removal Reminder!



Just a reminder that activities such as plowing, blowing or shoveling snow onto or across public roads are prohibited by MN Statute 160.2715 and City Ordinance No. 124, Sec 70-2. This includes the ditch and right-of-way area along the roads. The snow can cause issues for motor vehicles, mail delivery, snow plowing, and garbage service.

Civil penalties may apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard, such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow!

## City Snow and Ice Removal

Snowplow operators try to evenly distribute the snow along the route, but in some instances limited space can make this difficult. For safer streets and faster, more thorough service, our snowplow drivers urge you to remember:



- No Parking on any public street from November 1 to March 31 between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.
- No Parking on any public street after a 2 inch snowfall, as determined by the Public Works Manager, between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm until the road has been plowed the full width.
- Keep a safe distance from the snowplow. They can weigh 17 times more than the average car and frequently back up.
- Think safely. Plan on traffic delays following a snowfall.
- Protect your kids! Remember it is dangerous for children to play in snow banks along city streets where snowplow operators are unable to see them.
- Do not place metal stakes, boulders, or permanent structures in the road right-of-way area (typically 33 feet from the center of the road on residential streets).
- Staking the curb line with temporary wooden lathe or fiberglass markers is acceptable and does make it easier for plow operators to distinguish the road edge under the blanket of new snow, however if snow banks grow too tall during the winter, crews may have to push them back which will knock over the markers so it is recommended to use something inexpensive.

## Tree Trimming



The Public Works Department will be working throughout the city this fall and winter trimming and removing trees and brush along the public road right-of way (typically 33 feet from the center of the road on residential streets). The trimming is necessary to prevent branches from interfering with traveling vehicles and from blocking visibility. Some trees that are structurally unsound or too close to the roadway may need to be completely removed.

If you have any issues or need to report a public works related problem please call Nate Ayshford at 763-367-7876. We depend on and encourage your assistance in reporting any safety or maintenance matters and will respond to any of your comments or concerns in a timely manner. Thanks for all your help.

# Before the Snow: Mailbox Checklist

By Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager

Now is a good time to check the construction and sturdiness of your mailbox prior to the snowplow season. Mailboxes can be especially vulnerable to damage from snow removal operations.

Keep in mind, the City does not assume liability for mailboxes damaged during normal plowing operations, including damage from discharged snow, unless it is determined the plow made direct contact with a mailbox meeting the installation requirements. Decorative and plastic mailboxes are not within the requirements and will not be replaced if damaged.

## RATING: POOR



- Not enough height or clearance
- Not sturdy and has obstacles around the mailbox post

## RATING: FAIR



- Not enough height and clearance
- Very brittle when cold

## RATING: GOOD



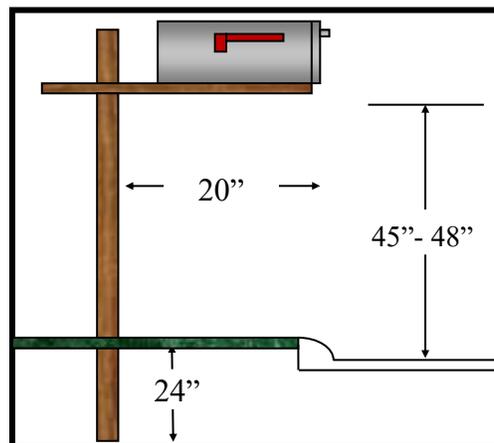
- Good clearance, sturdy
- Paper tube should be raised to height of mailbox

## RATING: BEST



- Good height and clearance
- Sturdy

When inspecting your mailbox, make sure it is installed so that the bottom edge is 45" to 48" above street level; with the post 20" back from the curb or front of the box. That amount of clearance is needed to keep the plow's wing from hitting the box. If there are any plastic newspaper tubes attached to the mailbox, they should be above 45" height requirement as well. Check to make sure the construction is stable enough to withstand the force of the wet snow and ice coming off of the wing of the snowplow.



# East Bethel Firearm Ordinances



With hunting season here, the City of East Bethel receives numerous calls inquiring about additional

firearm regulations enforced by the City of East Bethel.

State laws regulate the possession and use of firearms. The only additional ordinance the city has on firearm use is in Chapter 42, Article IV which addresses discharging firearms near buildings and on or near properties of another. No person shall discharge a firearm within 500 feet of a building that is not owned by them, unless they have written consent to do so. Additionally, no person may discharge a firearm on or across property owned by another without written consent of the property owner.

Bow hunting is not addressed in the city code and is governed by state laws and agencies.

If you have someone shooting within 500 feet of your home or accessory buildings, or if they are shooting on or across your property, take photos and videos documenting it, then call the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. Allow the Sheriff's Department to handle the situation and talk to the hunter. This offense is punishable as a misdemeanor.

If you are not sure where property lines are or how far 500 feet is from a building, follow these steps:

- 1.) Go to the interactive map, on the city website.
- 2.) Under layers select aerial photo.
- 3.) Use the search tool to find the property in question, then find the measuring option under Tools.

Please note that this is the easiest and fastest way to find out this information, although it is not a legal tool to find property lines if they are being disputed as that information needs to be exact.

Hunting and target practice is a right enjoyed by many residents. Please be safe and courteous to the rights and property of others.

# Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

There is a small sign located at 2660 Fawn Lake Drive in East Bethel. In the 12 plus years I have lived here I have driven by that sign a hundred times and had no idea of how important or the kind of impact it has had on the world.

Right here in our city is located what researchers around the world call “the modern birthplace of the Science of Ecology.” What started in 1942 with 500 acres has grown to 5600 plus square acres, around 8.75 square miles.

The name on the sign says The Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, it is owned and operated by the University of Minnesota and is home to numerous long-term experiments that are literally helping the world. In 1975 our nation recognized this special place as a National Natural Landmark. Since the beginning, this property has been under the care of the best researchers, scientists and volunteers. The land has been kept and preserved wild and in the natural state, like Mother Nature herself lived there. It is home to 61 types of mammals and 291 different species of birds.

I write this article because I feel it's important to understand and recognize the value of past research and current long term research findings as we all live in a time of increasing concern for our global environment. Plus, as a resident here in East Bethel, they are our neighbor, as Cedar Creek itself touches many properties as it twists it way through East Bethel.

I recently attended an Open House Ground Breaking Ceremony and Trail Dedication with my wife Stacey, and not only was given a history lesson, but toured just a small piece of the reserve. We met painters, authors, song writers, researchers, teachers, students and professors who all find inspiration in the 5600 acres of pure nature.

I always knew East Bethel was a gem of a city, and like you, we moved to this area because of the rural country feel. What I didn't realize is how special this area is, and the impact their research is having on our world.

What I really enjoyed finding out is that there are trails open to not only residents of East Bethel but to the public to enjoy. There is no better time than the fall to take advantage of the changing colors these trails have to offer to truly appreciate what East Bethel looked like before we started to develop this area.

The Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR) web page and Facebook page contain a ton of information. If you and your family want to enjoy a natural treasure or take part in many of the activities they offer, including star parties for those who enjoy star gazing, please check out their social media page. The history alone is a fascinating read which should help mold our decision about future developments as our city grows.

Hopefully the next time you drive by you will have a better understanding of the sign on Fawn Lake Drive. I think it's important to realize that we did not inherit this city we all call home from past generations; we actually are borrowing it from future generations of our children.

Please enjoy your day and city, *Councilman Tim Miller*



## Annual ACD Tree Sale Launched!

The Anoka Conservation is taking tree orders for end of April pick up. The trees and shrubs are sold in bare root seedlings or transplants range from 8" to 12" in height. They may be purchased in bundles of ten for \$23.00, or twenty-five for \$45 not including tax. Native prairie seed and tree aides are also available. ACD offers trees for three primary reasons: 1) soil and energy conservation planting, 2) wildlife habitat plantings, and 3) native ecosystem restoration. Our order form is organized to group native trees and shrubs according to their ecosystem and non-native trees and shrubs based upon their primary use. There's a lot of overlap between categories so refer to the information tables for a more complete description of their characteristics.

ACD promotes the restoration of native ecosystems by offering more native species and categorizing them based upon their ecosystems. Why does this make sense to do? Native plants are best suited to Anoka County's conditions. They can survive the soils, moisture and climate without needing additional care. They naturally grow well together and compliment each other's characteristics. They are capable of forming the most complex and resilient ecosystems possible in this area, thereby providing the most benefit to local wildlife. Plus, most of our natural communities have been reduced to a few acres by agriculture and development and are in need of restoration.

The natural ecosystems found in Anoka County include twenty different types of dry, mesic and wet prairies, shrub lands, woodlands and forests. Complete descriptions of these can be found in "Minnesota's St. Croix River Valley and Anoka Sandplain, A Guide to Native Habitats," MN DNR, 1995.

You do not need to be an Anoka County Resident to order. Call 763-434-2030 x 100 or email [kathy.berkness@anokaswcd.org](mailto:kathy.berkness@anokaswcd.org) to get added to the notification list.



# Autumn Recycling Tips and Information



## Keep “Tanglers” (such as Plastics Bags) Out of Your Curbside Recycling Carts

“Tanglers” is a recycling industry term for any item that gets wrapped around equipment at recycling sorting facilities. Items such as plastic bags and stretch film, holiday string lights, electrical cords, rope, garden hoses, clothing, and chains are all considered tanglers. These items become tangled on sorting equipment and workers can spend hours each day removing them, causing costly processing delays when the entire machine must be shut down to cut off each of the tanglers by hand.

However, some of these items are recyclable at drop-off centers since drop-offs collect items separately and therefore, they can be sent directly to a market without sorting.

The following list are tanglers that can be recycled at drop-offs:

- **Plastic bags, stretch film and air pillows**
  - Reduce/reuse:** Avoid using plastic bags by bringing your own bag. Bring packaging materials to mailing stores or the Coon Rapids Recycling Center for reuse.
  - Recycle:** Clean, dry bags and stretch film can be taken to large retailers or grocery stores. Simply puncture plastic air pillows and they can be recycled with other plastic film. Look for collection containers by store entrances.
  - Trash:** Non-stretchy cellophane, wet or food contaminated bags, plastic handles.
- **Holiday/string lights and electrical cords**
  - Recycle:** Many city halls and recycling centers collect these items for recycling. Any scrap metal or electronics recycler will accept them as well.
- **Clothing**
  - Reduce/reuse:** There are many outlets for clean, usable clothing. Some food shelves, drop boxes, thrift stores and various charitable pickup services accept usable clothing. If ripped or torn, it is best to use as a rag or donate to organizations that accept rags.
- **Metal chains/ropes/garden hoses**
  - Reduce/reuse:** Ideas of what to do with old, leaky garden hoses abound on the internet and having some spare rope on hand is usually a good idea.
  - Recycle:** Metal chains can be recycled with scrap metal.
  - Rope and garden hoses – cannot be recycled**
  - Trash:** If you can't repurpose them, worn rope and damaged hoses are not recyclable and must be thrown away.

Visit [AnokaCountyMN.gov/RecyclingDirectory](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/RecyclingDirectory) for additional information.

Take **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine. Take organics, yard and tree waste to the **Anoka County Compost sites**. For more information on these programs, go to [AnokaCountyMN.gov/recycle](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/recycle), or call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400.

**EAST BETHEL RECYCLING CENTER**—Open 24/7 and is provided to serve your recycling needs. Materials collected are aluminum cans, tin cans, appliances, automotive batteries, clothing (drop box), cardboard, glass, mixed paper, newspaper, scrap metal, and used oil/oil filters. We do not accept wooden items. This facility is not intended to be used as a dumping area for unwanted waste.

### PLEASE NO TRASH, TIRES, TVs, FURNITURE, MATTRESSES OR ANIMAL FECES.

Our **DROP OFF SATURDAY** events are held the last Saturday of *every month* from 9 AM to Noon at the East Bethel Recycling Center (2761 Viking Blvd NE) in East Bethel.

Tires are \$5 and TV's 28"+ and/or consoles are \$20. There is no charge for electronics, computers, copiers, TV's under 28", fluorescent bulbs, and automotive batteries.

The remaining Drop-Off Saturday events for 2023 are: Saturday, November 25 and Saturday, December 30.

Have recycling questions or need help finding where to recycle something?  
Please contact Emily Jabs at 763-367-7854, or Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400.

Funded by Anoka County Board of Commissioners & State SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) Funds.

# Protect Yourself from Swatting!

By Anoka County Sheriff's Office



During the last school year, newsworthy stories were published after dispatch centers around Minnesota and the country received fake "swatting" calls saying that shootings were occurring in local schools. Upon arrival, emergency responders quickly determined the calls were a hoax. While these types of calls can happen in larger situations like this, it also happens to smaller businesses and homes across the country.

Swatting is the action of making a prank call to emergency services to bring about the dispatch of many armed law enforcement officers to a particular address. This act is dangerous

for the people who are present at the location, in addition to the responding deputies. Individuals from all over the world can make these calls via Voice Over IP, or by "spoofing" a phone number to show the call is coming from a different person.

While every call received to Anoka County Emergency Communications – 911 is taken seriously and responded to, law enforcement pays very close attention to the calls to see if details were shared that would make the claims unlikely. They are well versed on the types of calls each community typically receives, as well as the people within the community. Therefore, they typically can suspect the call has high likelihood of being a swatting call before arrival. Federal and state agencies such as the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension also follow swatting call trends and alert law enforcement agencies, so they are aware of the potential calls coming into their area.

Understandably, it can be frightening for unsuspecting individuals to have sudden and large law enforcement presence at their location for no apparent reason. However, if deputies do respond to your residence or business due to a swatting call, we will make every effort to explain the situation to the individuals inside so that they understand why law enforcement responded in such fashion.

## How to help protect yourself:

Many victims of swatting calls fall victim due to sharing too much about themselves when participating in online activities, such as video gaming with strangers. After innocently sharing personal information about themselves, the individual on the other end can search for and publish private or identifying information about the person on the internet, typically with malicious intent. This information gives swatters the information they need to place a fake call to emergency dispatchers with extreme claims.

This is one of the many reasons to avoid sharing personal information via the web. Avoid checking into locations on social media platforms, posting photos of your home online, or sharing your phone number or address on social media. Ensure that children and teenagers in your home are also following these safe practices when they are connected to the internet.



Enhance your online security by regularly changing and using unique and complex passwords to reduce the risk of your accounts becoming compromised, and an attacker gaining access to your personal information. Additionally, setting up two-factor authentication can improve the security of your accounts.

Whenever you are online, always stay alert and keep your guard up. By keeping your personal information off the internet as much as possible, you greatly decrease your chances of becoming a victim!

# East Bethel's Booster Day Event

By Stephanie Dorn, Event Coordinator

East Bethel Booster Day is an annual event that brings together residents, businesses, organizations, and visitors for a day of fun, festivities, and community engagement. Traditionally held the third Saturday of July, this celebration has been a staple in the East Bethel community for decades.

## Get Involved!

The East Bethel Booster Day committee meets once a month, typically the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our meetings start at 6:30pm and are held at East Bethel City Hall. We would like to partner with local organizations, businesses, and residents to bring Booster Day to life.

Booster Day relies on the dedication of volunteers to run smoothly. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to a more significant role, your help is invaluable. Consider joining the organizing committee, assisting with setup and teardown, or lending a hand during the event next summer.

East Bethel Booster Day isn't just a one-day event; it's a celebration of community spirit and togetherness. By actively participating in this cherished tradition, you not only contribute to the success of the event but also strengthen the bonds that make East Bethel a wonderful place to live. We would love to talk with you more about how to get involved. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of this fun event, please contact Stephanie at [coordinator@eastbethelboosterdays.com](mailto:coordinator@eastbethelboosterdays.com)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

East Bethel  
**BOOSTER DAY**

**VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

September 13th, 2023  
October 11th, 2023  
November 8th, 2023  
December 13th, 2023  
January 10th, 2024  
February 21st, 2024  
March 13th, 2024  
April 10th, 2024  
May 8th, 2024  
June 12th, 2024  
July 10th, 2024

**Booster Day - July 20th, 2024**

## Senior Dance Event Every Month

The East Bethel Seniors host a dance on the first Friday of every month at the East Bethel Senior Center. The dance is from 1:00—4:00 PM, with music provided by local musicians playing polka favorites and some easy old-time favorites.

Along with the \$7.00 admission to the dance, the Seniors provide popcorn, coffee and cookies. Soda and bottled water are available for \$1.00.

The Seniors are hoping to see more of the surrounding communities attend these dances for fun, dancing and getting to know each other.

Hope to see you all there!

# Program Notes from CCESR

## Artist-in-Residence Program

Art and science are, in many cases, inspired by similar motivations: a desire to explore the unexplored and to uncover the hidden patterns and relationships of everyday life. The College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota, through the CBS Conservatory & Botanical Collection and Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, offers a diversity of plant and animal communities and a wealth of long-term ecological and botanical research. In a new partnership, Cedar Creek and the Conservatory are teaming up to provide a unique opportunity for artists to investigate the intersection of science, nature, and humanity. We invite artists working in any genre (including but not limited to photography, painting, music, creative writing...) to bring their unique ideas and perspectives to Cedar Creek and/or the Conservatory to help us build a long-term, diverse body of work exploring these spaces and their science.



Artists in residence are provided with:

- Access to a world-renowned research site and/or botanical collection and the diverse habitats, biomes, and experiments they contains for up to one year
- Opportunities to interact with researchers and students working onsite, including formal meetings, opportunities to observe and/or participate in field work, horticulture, etc
- Space to promote your project on the Cedar Creek and/or CBS Conservatory website and social media platforms as well as in the Cedar Creek main visitors building or the Plant Growth Facilities in St. Paul
- Access to a private one-bedroom house on the property for overnight stays, if desired (for Cedar Creek residencies only)
- A one-time \$1000 honorarium, to be paid in two installments during the residency.

We ask that each artist in residence:

- Be over 18 years old
- Interact with site scientists and staff
- Incorporate both art and science in their final work
- Provide Cedar Creek and/or Conservatory staff with updates at least every three months
- Share their work with the public through an event, installation, reading, show or other appropriate outlet at some point during or at the culmination of the residency (organized by the artist, hosted and promoted by Cedar Creek or the CBS Conservatory)
- Consider leaving some aspect of their work for the permanent collections at Cedar Creek or the CBS Conservatory when the residency is completed.

As with all researchers and visitors onsite, we require that Artists in Residence respect all site and facility rules and regulations, including staying on internal roads, carrying a use permit, using care when handling plants, and checking in before each visit. A residency does not give you unlimited access to the reserve or Conservatory. Depending on the nature of the project, residencies may last from one week to one year. For Cedar Creek residencies, no overnight stays are required and you do not need to physically be "in residence" at the reserve - we do encourage you to stay overnight at least once though!

Artists in Residence will need to provide their own transportation, food, art supplies, and other materials. Although we are only able to provide a small stipend for our Artists, many past participants have been successful at obtaining external funding for their projects through the MN State Arts Board, the Swedish Council of America, local non-profits, and other sources. We are of course happy to provide official letters of support or information about the residency as part of funding applications!

New in 2024: propose projects at either Cedar Creek, the CBS Conservatory in St. Paul, or a project that uses both locations! Applications for 2024 residencies are now open! Submit your proposal by using the link at <https://cbs.umn.edu/cedarcreek/public-programs/artist-residence-program>. Applications will be accepted until 17 January 2024. Applicants will be notified of their status by early February.

## K-12 programs at Cedar Creek

The education arm of Cedar Creek strives to be an inspiring catalyst and outstanding resource for lifelong science education in Minnesota and beyond. Our goal is to build a pathway of science literacy and learning through engaging hands-on experiences at a world-renowned field station. Our activities are standards-driven and use the ecology of Minnesota and the unique challenges posed by current environmental issues to teach core science concepts. Our education work is financially supported in part by the National Science Foundation's Schoolyard LTER supplement.



We are now scheduling in-person field trips for the 2023-2024 school year! Questions? Contact Kara Baldwin ([baldwink@umn.edu](mailto:baldwink@umn.edu)).

# Prevent Your Septic System from Freezing

By Nick Schmitz, Building Official

A winter of cold temperatures and little snow cover can cause freezing of onsite systems. Even in a normal Minnesota winter, freezing can occasionally be a problem. Identifying and correcting a potential freezing problem is far easier than dealing with a frozen system. Here are a few common causes of onsite system freeze-ups.

**Lack of Snow Cover:** Snow serves as an insulating blanket over the septic tank(s) and soil treatment area (trenches, drainfield or mound). Lack of snow allows frost to go deeper into the ground, potentially freezing the system.

**Compacted Snow:** Compacted snow will not insulate as well as uncompacted snow. Driving any type of equipment over the system compacts snow and sends the frost down deeper. Automobiles, snowmobiles, ATV's, foot-traffic, and livestock should stay off the system all year long but especially in the winter.

**Lack of Plant Cover:** This often occurs in new systems installed late in the year where a vegetative cover could not be established before winter. The vegetative cover insulates the system and helps hold snow.

**Irregular Use of System:** When homes or cabins are unoccupied for long weekends or extended periods of time, no sewage is entering the system to maintain sufficient temperatures to avoid freezing. Low usage may not be sufficient to keep the system from freezing. Frequent use, warmer water temperatures and greater water use are all important in cold temperature.

**Leaking Plumbing Fixtures and Furnace Drips:** When a fixture such as a toilet or showerhead leaks, it sends a small trickle of water to the system. The slow moving water or drips can freeze within the pipe and eventually cause the pipe to freeze solid. Appliances such as high efficiency furnaces and humidifiers can also cause water to freeze in the pipes due to the small amount they discharge.

**Pipes Not Draining Properly:** A common cause of freeze-ups are sewer pipes and pump lines that are not installed with proper fall (change of elevation), or pipes that settle or sag after installation. Any time a dip or low spot occurs in a pipe, sewage can collect and freeze.

**Cold Air Entering the System:** Open, broken and uncapped riser or inspection pipes and manhole covers allow cold air into the system and can cause the system to freeze.

**Water Logged System:** If a system was hydraulically failing (water coming to surface or seeping out the side of a mound) it is a prime candidate to freeze. This effluent will freeze and prevent further effluent from entering the soil.

## What Should You Do If Your Onsite System Freezes?

If your septic system is frozen, your first step is to call an onsite professional. Unless the cause of freezing is corrected the system will refreeze next winter. If you have a pump and hear water constantly running in a pump tank (a possible indication of a frozen system) shut off your pump and call an onsite professional. This will likely be a pumper or an installer who can help determine the cause of the problem and offer solutions. The University of Minnesota Onsite Program web site is one place to go to locate a professional. Many pumpers and installers have devices called steamers and high-pressure jetters to try to unfreeze system piping.

Other methods used to help fix a freezing problem include adding heat tape and tank heaters. Cameras can be sent down the pipes to determine where the freezing is occurring and if repairs are needed. If it is not feasible to correct the problem or equipment is not available in your area, the only other option is to use the septic tank(s) in the system as a holding tank until the system thaws naturally. You will need to contact a pumper who will empty out the tanks when they are full on a regular basis. This can be very costly, especially with normal volumes of water use (50 to 75 gallons per person per day). Reduce water use by limiting the number of toilet flushes, taking short showers, using the dishwasher at full capacity, limiting running water to get hot or cold and doing laundry at a laundromat. It is smart to find the cause of the freezing problem so that it can be addressed in the spring, preventing future freeze-ups. Then preventative measures can be added to the system such as adding insulation around the tank and pipes or adding additional cover. There are many misconceptions about how to deal with a frozen onsite system.

- Do NOT add antifreeze, salt or a septic system additive into the system.
- Do NOT pump sewage onto the ground surface.
- Do NOT start a fire over the system to attempt to thaw it out. Do NOT run water continually to try to unfreeze the system.

## What Can You Do to Prevent Your Onsite System from Freezing in the Future?

Depending on your system, location, and water use, you may never have a freezing problem. However, there are several steps that you can take if you are concerned about your onsite system freezing. Here are some precautions if you have had a past problem or are concerned about having a future problem. It is not necessary to do all of these, but you may pick and choose based on your situation:

1. Place a layer of mulch (6 -12 inches) over the pipes, tank and soil treatment system to provide extra insulation. This mulch could be straw, leaves, hay or any other loose material that will not compact and stay in place. This is particularly important if you have had a new system installed late in the year and no vegetative cover has been established. If your system is currently frozen ignore this step, as it will delay thawing come spring.
2. Let the grass get a little longer in the late summer/fall over the tank and soil treatment area. This will provide extra insulation and help hold any snow that may fall.
3. Use water; the warmer the better if you feel the system is starting to freeze. If freezing is a concern, increasing low use to a normal water use can help the system. This includes spreading out your laundry schedule to possibly doing one warm/hot load per day, using your dishwasher and maybe even taking a hot bath. DO NOT leave water running all the time, as this will hydraulically overload the system.
4. If you know you are going to be gone for an extended period, plan accordingly. This could include having someone use sufficient quantities of water in the home regularly or pumping out your tank before leaving. If you live in an area with a high water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full for several winter months, the sewage will get very cold in shallow tanks and can even freeze. If you then return home before temperatures start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold. By starting with an empty tank, you can then start fresh with warm effluent. If you use a cabin on a limited basis during the winter months, this may be a good idea as well.

Continued on next page...

5. Fix any leaky plumbing fixtures or appliances in your home. This will help prevent freezing problems and help your system work better year round.
6. While on vacation have someone come by and run warm water for a while.
7. Keep all types of vehicles and high traffic off of the system. This is a good rule to follow year round.
8. Make sure all risers; inspections pipes and manholes have covers on them. Sealing them and adding insulation is a good idea. Insulation may be added during construction particularly if the top of the septic tank is within 2 feet from the surface.
9. Keep an eye on your system. If any seeping or ponding occurs contact an onsite professional to help determine the cause and remedy.
10. Add more insulation to your system. This could include replacing pipe with insulated pipe, adding foam insulation over septic tanks or adding more soil cover.

Remember to take care of your septic system so you do not have any problems.



## Septic system repair & replacement grants

- ✓ Homesteaded single family homes or duplexes in Anoka Co.
- ✓ Must have been inspected and issued a certificate of non-compliance.
- ✓ May NOT be used for tank pumping or other maintenance.
- ✓ Household must meet low income thresholds. Grant covers up to 90% depending on income.
- ✓ Funding is limited and may vary by location. Shoreland areas or projects providing the greatest health and environmental benefits may be preferentially funded.
- ✓ See all program requirements at [www.AnokaSWCD.org](http://www.AnokaSWCD.org) under “financial assistance.”

Contact Kris Larson at the Anoka Conservation District.  
763-434-2030 ext 210 or [kris.larson@anokaswcd.org](mailto:kris.larson@anokaswcd.org)



## WE NEED YOU! To Be An Election Judge

The presidential primary, state primary and general elections are on the horizon. Election judges will be needed at all precincts. We will be hiring a team of judges for each of our three polling places for the presidential primary on March 5, the state primary election on August 8 and the general election on November 7.

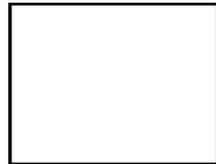


Election judges are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out election procedures, and make sure the rights of voters are protected. Those that serve in these positions will learn more about the election process, and along with their team, ensure that elections are administered in a fair manner:

- ◆ Minnesota State Law allows time off from work without loss of wages to serve as an election judge, as long as you provide a 20-day notice to your employer.
- ◆ Students who are at least 16 years of age may serve as trainee election judges.
- ◆ Election judges are required to attend a minimum of two hours of training, for which you will be paid.
- ◆ There is a need for judges who are comfortable and familiar with technology (iPads, etc.).

If you are interested in learning more about being an Election Judge or Trainee Election Judge, you can download our Election Judge Application/Information Update from the city website ([www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us](http://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us)), or contact Carrie Frost, the East Bethel Elections Coordinator at 763-367-7853 or [carrie.frost@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:carrie.frost@ci.east-bethel.mn.us).

# Events



City Hall will be closed for the following holidays:

**VETERANS DAY**

Friday, November 10

**THANKSGIVING**

Thursday, Nov. 23—Friday, Nov. 24

NOVEMBER:

- 3 • **Senior Dance**, East Bethel Senior Center 1—4 pm
- 7 • **Election Day**, Polls are open 7 am—8 pm
- 8 • **Booster Committee Mtg**, East Bethel City Hall 6:30 pm
- 14 • **URRWMO Mtg**, Oak Grove City Hall 6:30—7:30 pm
- 15 • **Fall Town Hall Meeting**, East Bethel Senior Center 6—9 pm
- 16 • **East Bethel Senior Mtg**, East Bethel Senior Center 10:30 am—Noon
- 25 • **Drop-Off Saturday**, East Bethel Recycling Center 9 am—Noon

DECEMBER:

- 1 • **Senior Dance**, East Bethel Senior Center 1—4 pm
- 13 • **Booster Committee Mtg**, East Bethel City Hall 6:30 pm
- 21 • **East Bethel Senior Mtg**, East Bethel Senior Center 10:30 am—Noon
- 30 • **Drop-Off Saturday**, East Bethel Recycling Center 9 am—Noon

## City Meeting Schedule

- City Council**, Second & Fourth Monday each month, 7:00 pm at East Bethel City Hall
- City Council Work Meeting**, First Monday each month, 7:00 pm at East Bethel City Hall
- EDA**, Third Monday each month, 7:00 pm at East Bethel City Hall
- Park Commission**, Second Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm at East Bethel City Hall
- Planning Commission**, Fourth Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm at East Bethel City Hall

To confirm meeting details, call City Hall at 763-367-7840 or visit the City's website at [www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us](http://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us)

## Upcoming Events...

### NOVEMBER

**Fall Town Hall Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 15: 6-9 PM

**NACE Online Purse Auction**  
Nov 17: 9 AM—Nov 20: 8 PM

### DECEMBER

**EB Fire Dept Santa Parade**  
Saturday, December 9: Time TBD

**EB Seniors Holiday Tree Lighting**  
Date/Time TBD



**CITY OF EAST BETHEL**

📍 2241 221st Avenue NE • East Bethel, MN 55011

☎ 763-367-7840 • 📠 763-434-9578 • 🌐 [www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us](http://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us)

**NEWSLETTER COMMENTS & INFORMATION:**

Carrie Frost, Administrative Coordinator • 763-367-7853 • [carrie.frost@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:carrie.frost@ci.east-bethel.mn.us)