



# EAST BETHEL BULLETIN

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## Budget Summary

2008, 2009 & 2010

By Rita Pierce, Fiscal and Support Services Director

The City of East Bethel Budgets for 2010 and 2009 along with 2008 actual amounts are provided on **Page 2** in summary form. Governmental funds, which include General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds and Capital Project Funds, are totaled together in this summary. The Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Ice Arena Fund and the Equipment Replacement Fund, which are Proprietary Funds are shown individually.

City Council budget discussions began early in 2009. An amendment to the 2009 budget was necessary when the Governor reduced payments for Market Value Homestead Credit to the City totaling \$250,152 for 2008 and 2009, done months after the Council had adopted budgets and tax levies for 2009. City Council's review of the 2010 budget began in July and has continued through October. A special budget meeting was held on July 29, 2009. The primary purpose of this meeting was to provide citizens the opportunity to have input and comment on the 2010 budget. The preliminary budget and tax levy was adopted in September and the final budget and levy was adopted on De-

cember 2, 2009.

The economy has had a significant impact on the City including falling property values, reduced state aids and declining development activities. The average residential property in East Bethel lost nearly nine percent of its value when compared to 2008 values.

City Council and Staff developed plans to balance the budget and minimize impacts on property taxes for 2010 while making provisions for maintaining necessary and essential services.

For those interested, the complete budget document is available for review at East Bethel City Hall and on the City's website at [www.ci.eastbethel.mn.us](http://www.ci.eastbethel.mn.us). Just click on Budget on the left hand side of the front page of the web site.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the budget meetings for 2011 which will begin mid summer of 2010. Dates and times of these meetings will be posted on the City's website, on the City Bulletin Board, in the newsletter or by calling 763-367-7840.



### City of East Bethel Summary Budget Statement

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2010 budget information concerning the City of East Bethel to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. This is not the complete City budget; the complete City budget may be examined at East Bethel City Hall at 2241 221st Ave. N.E., East Bethel, MN 55011. The City Council approved this budget on December 2, 2009.

#### Governmental Funds 2010 Adopted Budget

BUDGETED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	2008 ACTUAL	2009 BUDGET	2010 BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$4,169,311	\$4,704,487	\$5,049,373
Special Assessments	106,720		93,296
Licenses and Permits	148,663	186,550	138,350
Intergovernmental Revenues:			
Federal	31,544		88,500
State	934,011	763,329	518,126
County	30,321	27,000	30,000
Other Local Units	10,000		
Charges for Services	93,069	349,146	171,370
Fines and Forfeits	47,735	48,100	58,100
Miscellaneous	123,114	68,314	55,500
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$5,694,488</b>	<b>\$6,146,926</b>	<b>\$6,202,615</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowing	\$1,715,000		
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Government	\$1,031,565	\$1,090,949	\$1,089,562
Public Safety	1,520,471	1,686,864	1,833,472
Streets and Highways	672,222	687,334	669,393
Sanitation - Recycling	31,038	37,352	38,612
Parks and Recreation	405,356	396,153	379,921
Economic Development and Housing	219,886	300,944	428,558
G.O.Debt Service	2,440,000	120,000	165,000
Debt Interest and Agent Fees	164,211	162,393	141,758
Transfers-Proprietary Funds	265,600	269,758	246,700
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$6,750,349</b>	<b>\$4,751,747</b>	<b>\$4,992,976</b>
<b>INCREASE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$659,139</b>	<b>\$1,395,179</b>	<b>\$1,209,639</b>
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY REQUIREMENT TO FUND THIS BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,264,124</b>	<b>\$ 4,676,487</b>	<b>\$ 5,021,373</b>

#### Proprietary Funds 2010 Adopted Budgets

	Adopted 2010 Budgets				2010	2009
	Water	Sewer	Arena	Equipment Replacement	Adopted Budgets	Adopted Budgets
OPERATING REVENUES	\$37,200	\$71,200	\$261,500	\$33,200	\$403,100	\$419,200
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Personal Services	18,034	17,871			35,905	34,311
Supplies	9,500	19,850	32,700		62,050	52,100
Contractual Services	20,450	26,771	186,250		233,471	259,050
Capital Equipment				418,000	418,000	255,000
OPERATING INCOME	(\$10,784)	\$6,708	\$42,550	(\$384,800)	(\$346,326)	(\$181,261)
NONOPERATING (EXPENSES) REVENUES						
Debt Service					0	0
Transfers				246,700	246,700	269,758
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(\$10,784)</b>	<b>\$6,708</b>	<b>\$42,550</b>	<b>(\$138,100)</b>	<b>(\$99,626)</b>	<b>\$88,497</b>

## City Council Welcomes its Newest Member

At its December 16, 2009 Council meeting, the City Council appointed Steve Channer to fill the vacancy left by Council Member Anne Klein. Council Member Channer took his Oath of Office on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 and began his service to the City Council at that time. Council Member Channer's term will expire December 31, 2010.

Council Member Channer and his family moved to East Bethel in 2004. They enjoy participating in

community events, including Booster Day, Night to Unite (formerly National Night Out), East Bethel Town Hall meetings and other civic events. The Channer family is also active with school and sporting events.

Council Member Channer has

served on the East Bethel Planning Commission and assisted

with the development of the City's Zoning Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member Channer can be reached by email at [steve.channer@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:steve.channer@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or at (763) 413-7330.



## Document Shredding is Coming to East Bethel!

By Lori Elfering, Admin. Asst, Public Works

Consumer fraud and identity theft are becoming an epidemic in our communities. To raise awareness and prevention the City will be offering document shredding to residents at the Spring Recycling Day Event. This is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2010. This will provide individuals an opportunity to have confidential documents destroyed, on site, while they wait. So, start cleaning and get your boxes or bags of documents ready.

Many residents are unsure of the proper and most secure way to go about destroying documents with sensitive information on them. Shred-it offers a quick, easy, secure, and convenient way to dispose of out-dated or confidential documents. No more sitting by the small shredder for hours and continually having to un-jam it; no more removing paper clips and staples; and no more worrying about when you will find the time to get it all done. What takes many hours to do by hand will only take minutes. And, remember, there is no need to remove staples or paper clips so the prep work is reduced significantly.

Bring your boxes or bags of documents to Recycling Day and they will shred them as you wait.

They will then provide you with a Certificate of Destruction for the items that are shredded.

***Not sure what to shred? It is not just paper anymore!*** Confidential papers • Hard Drives & Media • CD-ROM's/DVD's • Computer Backups • X-Rays • Videotapes • Cassette Tapes • Outdated paperwork

**1<sup>st</sup> 4 boxes/bags are \$5.00 each  
5<sup>th</sup> box/bag is FREE!!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 4 boxes/bags are \$5.00 each  
10<sup>th</sup> box/bag is FREE!!**

**Limit of 10 boxes/bags per person**

**This service is limited to residential customers only!**

We encourage you to take advantage of this service to help protect yourselves from fraud and identity theft. All documents that are shredded will be recycled which helps protect the environment.

***Document shredding saves time, money and is good for our environment!***

### ***Election Judges Needed!!!!***

Serving as an election judge is a great way to serve your community and learn more about the election process. If you are interested in learning more about being an Election Judge, simply go to the City website at [www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us](http://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us) and click on Elections and fill out the form. If you have additional questions, please call Wendy Warren at 763-367-7853 or e-mail: [wendy.warren@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:wendy.warren@ci.east-bethel.mn.us).

## Heater and Fireplace Safety Tips

By Mark DuCharme, Fire Chief

Heaters can cause fires if they are placed too close to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture or bedding. Fireplaces can cause fires if the chimney is cracked, blocked or coated with creosote, or if sparks and embers can reach flammable materials. Fuel-burning appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if they are improperly installed, poorly maintained, have compromised venting systems, or are misused.

### Heater safety tips:

- Use a heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features; older space heaters may not meet the newer safety standards. Kerosene heaters are required to have an automatic cut-off mechanism that will extinguish the flame if the unit tips over. Most electric heaters also have a similar mechanism to turn the unit off. More guarding around the heating coils of electric heaters and the burner of kerosene heaters also is required to prevent fires. Unvented gas space heaters require oxygen depletion sensors to help prevent carbon monoxide production from inefficient combustion.
- Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flam-

mable materials.

- Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater. Make sure your heater meets current safety standards to shut off if oxygen levels fall too low. Make sure your heater is correctly rated for your home. An oversized heater could deplete the available oxygen, causing excess carbon monoxide to be produced. Keep a window in the room open at least one inch to ensure proper ventilation. This helps prevent pollutant build-up and promotes proper combustion. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to provide sufficient combustion air to prevent carbon monoxide production.
- NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Have gas and kerosene space heaters inspected annually to ensure proper operation.
- Do not use a kitchen range or oven to heat your house because it could overheat or generate excessive carbon monoxide.
- Be aware that mobile homes require specially-designed heating equipment. Only electric or vented fuel-fired equipment should be used.

Have a smoke alarm with fresh batteries on each level of the house, inside every bedroom, and outside the bedrooms in each sleeping area. In addition, have a carbon monoxide alarm outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area.

### Fireplace safety tips:

- Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote or debris.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper before going to bed if the ashes are still warm. An open damper will prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home, especially while the family is sleeping.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or re-light a fire because the vapors can explode. Never keep flammable fuels or materials near a fire. Never store flammable liquids in your home.
- Never use charcoal in a fireplace because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep a screen or glass enclosure around a fireplace to prevent sparks or embers from igniting flammable materials

For more information, contact Fire Chief Mark DuCharme at 763-367-7885.

### City Council "New" E-mail Addresses

Contacting the Mayor and Council Members has become easier. The City has established an e-mail address for each Council Member. You can send your communication directly to a Council Member by using the following address construction: `firstname.lastname@ci.eastbethel.mn.us`. These e-mail addresses are noted on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 763-367-7840. We look forward to hearing from you!



## Residential Burglaries

By Bruce Andersohn, Anoka County Sheriff

The one place that most of us can go to escape the stress of our hectic world is our home. That is the place where time is our own, and where we can relax with our family and friends. Home is truly our “castle” where we control who enters and choose who we want to invite in.

Unfortunately, criminals do not wait for an invitation and enter our homes without regard or respect for the property or the persons who reside there. When a criminal burglarizes a home, the victims suffer not only monetary and property loss, but also feel violated and can easily lose trust in the security of their home.

During a review of recent residential burglaries, certain patterns and themes emerge. Knowing these patterns can reduce your risk of being a victim of a residential burglary. From September 18, 2009 through November 18, 2009, there were 35 reported residential burglaries in our patrol area which includes Andover, Bethel, Columbus, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Oak Grove, and Linwood Township. Of those, 25 occurred during daytime hours (7:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M.), five occurred during evening hours (5:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M.), and two occurred during the overnight hours (12:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M.) It is apparent that most of the burglaries occurred during the daytime hours when residents were at work or school. This comes as no surprise given the fact that the economic survival of families often requires both parents

working.

In addition, of those 35 burglaries, 22 involved forcible entries. Fourteen forcible entries were made through garage service doors, with others made through front doors, windows, or sliding glass doors. While locking your home will deter a burglary, making sure you have a quality dead-bolt and strike plate installed on every door that is a point-of-entry will help prevent entry. The majority of garage service doors have a lock comparable to a bathroom locking mechanism – easy to force your way into. An investment in quality locks, doors, and windows is a small price to pay rather than becoming a victim.

Also, be alert and pay attention to who comes and goes in your neighborhood. If you see someone or something that does not look right, call 911 so a deputy can respond to investigate. We would rather be called to prevent a potential crime than to respond to one after it has occurred. With your vigilance and help, we can reduce the chance of a burglary at your home or in your neighborhood. Working together, we can make our community safer.

For more information on home security, go to [www.anokacounty.us/crimewatch](http://www.anokacounty.us/crimewatch) and click on *Reduce Your Risk*.

## Winter Fun at the Fish Lake Nature Trails

by Mary Spivey, Education Coordinator, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

Now that I'm in the midst of my fourth Minnesota winter, I'm still amazed by the tools (some would argue the word “toys”) required for keeping life fun and orderly during each season of the year. Summer tools are four-wheelers and lawn mowers. Fall is still four-wheelers and adds leaf-blowers. Winter is snow-mobiles and snow plows. Spring is - well, any of the aforementioned items depending on the weather!

Winter in East Bethel means the City brings out the cross-country ski trail groomer in addition to the snow plows, and transforms fire-break roads into several miles, if not world-class, at least noteworthy skiing! These roads,

off-limits during the growing season due to research projects, make excellent ski trails when covered with snow. While we have no accurate count of the number of folks using the trail, I've had many people tell me they've enjoyed the skiing and the solitude of the trails. In addition to the ski trail, the walking trail around the lake remains open during winter. Come to the kiosk at the trailhead, located in the parking lot at the end of Durant Street, to find brochures on the walking trail and the ski trail, as well as a list of birds found in the area in winter. (Sign our guest book as well - it helps us know who's using the trails!) The winter theme for the

display in the kiosk is the “Top Twenty Birds Found along The Fish Lake Nature Trails”. While at the kiosk, notice the beautiful split-rail fencing in the parking area and look forward to the covered pavilion to be completed once the weather warms - both thanks to the skills and talents of the City of East Bethel.

The City of East Bethel and Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve want you to know your park during all seasons! So bring out your skis, snow shoes or hiking boots and visit the gem in your own backyard. The Fish Lake Nature Trails are open 365 days a year, from 6:00 am - 10:00 pm.

# What's Happening at Public Works?

November - December 2009

By Jack Davis, Public Works Manager

## Ice Skating

The lighted outdoor ice rink at the East Bethel Ice Arena is now open for general skating. This rink will remain open as long as weather permits. The rules for use of the rink are as follows:

1. These facilities are for open skating only.
2. Organized practices or any team related practice activities are prohibited unless reserved by a City Facilities Permit and all applicable fees are paid.
3. Profane language and any activity which could cause injury to another is strictly prohibited.
4. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco use are permitted on the facility.

Please report any problems to the Ice Arena Manager. Offenders will be dealt with accordingly. Skating hours are from noon until 10:00 p.m. each day. For use of the warming house or the lights please contact the Ice Arena Manager. Restroom facilities are available inside the Ice Arena building.

## Park and Pool Lot

The Park and Pool Lot at the East Bethel Ice Arena is also open. This lot is located adjacent to and south of the main Arena parking lot and can be accessed from either Sims via Davenport, 209<sup>th</sup> or 205<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Signage has been installed along each of these routes which provides direction to the Arena and the Park and Pool Lot.

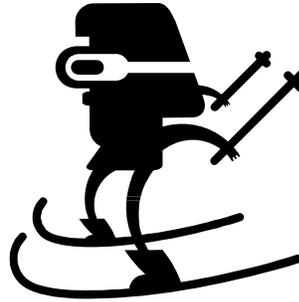
## Cross Country Ski Trails

Grooming of the cross country ski trails at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem and Scientific Reserve will begin the week after Christmas. Grooming will continue after each significant snow event until late March to early April.

## Snow Removal

With winter upon us, snow removal operations will be the focus of our road maintenance activities. Our snowplow drivers urge you to remember:

- Keep a safe distance from the snowplow. Give the plow driver room.
- Slow down. Yield to snowplows and give the plow driver room.
- Be patient. Never drive into a snow cloud.
- Remember an average 4" snowfall can take up to 10 hours to completely plow.
- Think safety, plan on traffic delays.
- Do not allow children to make tunnels in snow piles on the boulevard.
- Stay alert. A snow plow weighs 17 times more than your car.



- Do not plow, shovel or blow snow back into or across a plowed street.

The City of East Bethel has established a goal of plowing all streets within our 5 plow routes full width within twelve hours following a snow event. The City has established parking ordinances that when adhered to result in faster, more thorough service, and provide safer driving conditions.

## Parking Restrictions:

No motor vehicle shall be parked on any public street between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any day from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. No motor vehicle shall be parked on any public street between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day when there has been an accumulation of snow to a depth of two or more inches during the preceding 24-hour period commencing as of 4:00 a.m. on the day of the parking restriction.

The Public Works Manager shall determine whether there has been a snowfall requiring such parking restriction.

If you have any issues or need to report a problem please call Jack Davis at 763-367-7875 or e-mail at [jack.davis@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:jack.davis@ci.east-bethel.mn.us). We depend on and encourage your assistance in reporting any safety or maintenance matters and will respond to any of your complaints, comments or requests for service in a timely manner. Thanks for all your help.

Check out the NEW Coon Lake Beach website at:  
[www.coonlakebeach.org](http://www.coonlakebeach.org)

# Freezing Problems and Septic Systems

By Sara Christopherson, Ken Olson, & Valerie Prax, Minnesota Water Resources Center

## Why Might an Onsite System

**Freeze?** According to many onsite professionals, 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). Snow helps keep the heat of the sewage and the geothermal heat from deep soil layers. 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. Any time traffic over a sewer pipe, septic tank, or soil treatment area is anticipated, insulated pipe should be used.

**Compacted Soils:** Areas that have compacted soils such as driveways, paths or livestock enclosures tend to freeze deeper, affecting septic system components that may be in the area.

**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. This can also occur when very low volumes of sew-

age are being generated. In cases when only one or two people are living in a home, they may use only a small percentage of the designed flow for the system. This 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 stress situations.

**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 and thin film of water form caused by trickle flow 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. Pump lines can develop a dip right next to or above the septic tank as a result of back-filled soil settling from the excavation during the tank installation. All sewage needs to drain out of the pipe from a pump line.

**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 (e.g. 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 - <http://septic.umn.edu>. 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 the soil treatment system is full of ice, or there is evidence of leaking, there is no need to thaw the lines leading to the treatment area, as it cannot accept liquid until the area is thawed in spring.

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.

(continued on Page 9)

## Living Green at Home

By Stephanie Hanson, City Planner

We can make choices in our day-to-day lives that enhance, rather than just reduce our impact on the environment. A sustainable lifestyle can improve our quality of life, help protect the environment for future generations, and save us money all at the same time.

What can you do to live green at home?

Pick one or two of these ideas to try, then add more when you are ready.

### Save Energy

Minnesota utility bills are always high. Conserving electricity is key to both saving money and reducing pollutions from power plants. An easy step is to turn off lights and electronics when you leave the room. Another easy step is to buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which give bright light but use little electricity. You not only save on your electric bill, but effect the big picture. According to the International Energy Agency, 19 percent of global electricity is consumed by lighting. If every U.S household replaced just one incandescent bulb with Energy Star CFL, it would save enough energy to light seven million homes and save \$600 million in utility bills.

### Choose green power

Minnesota law requires electric utilities offer consumers voluntary options to purchase power generated from renewable sources, such as wind power, that emit far fewer greenhouse gases. You may buy part or all of your electricity from renewable sources. Contact your electric utility for details.

### Reduce and reuse

Waste reduction and recycling save energy and resources. Overwhelmed by paper? The average American used 10,355 sheets of paper in 2005. Make a difference by recycling paper and lightening your junk mail load.

Shop with your own reusable shopping bags. Worldwide, 500 billion to a trillion shopping bags are produced each year, and most end up in landfills. Using your own bag helps save energy used to produce the bag, as well as reduce the amount of plastic decomposing in the environment. See [www.recyclemoreminnesota.org](http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org) for more information.

### Take care of your lawn

Convert a portion of your lawn into a landscape that uses less water

and fertilizer and doesn't need mowing. See [www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html) for details about natural gardens.

### Plant trees to keep your home comfy

Deciduous trees, trees that lose all of their leaves each fall, save energy in summer by shading houses, paved areas, and air conditioners. Evergreen trees and shrubs save energy in the winter. Both kinds of trees also save in summer by directly cooling the air. This cooling happens as water evaporates from the leaf surfaces, much as our skin is cooled when we perspire.

It is recommended planting deciduous trees so they shade east-facing walls and windows from 7 to 11 a.m. and west facing surfaces from 3-7 p.m. in June, July, and August. Plant smaller deciduous or evergreen trees northwest and northeast of the building to provide late afternoon and early morning shade.



*This article has been reprinted with permission of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.*

## Community/Senior Center Events

2241 221st Avenue NE

**Senior Dances**  
1:00 pm—4:00 pm  
1st Friday of the Month

**Senior Meetings**  
10:30 am  
Third Thursday of the Month



**Pancake Breakfast**  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm  
2nd Sunday of the Month

**For rental information**  
Contact Dean or Mary  
Henrickson at  
763-434-5274

## Freezing Problems and Septic Systems (continued from page 7)

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 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:

Place a layer of mulch (8-12 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.

Let the grass in your lawn 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.

Use water; the warmer the better if you feel the system is starting to freeze. The Onsite Sewage Treatment Program is usually an advocate of water conservation, but 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.

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.

Fix any leaky plumbing fixtures or appliances in your home. This will help prevent freezing problems and help your system work better year round.

If you have appliances that generate very low flows such as high efficiency furnaces, you can put a heat tape in the pipe, and while on vacation have someone come by and run warm water for a while. Alternately, you could install a small condensate pump that holds and discharges 2 gallons per cycle.

Keep all types of vehicles and high traffic people activities off of the system. This is a good rule to follow year round.

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 or the surface.

Keep an eye on your system. If any seeping or ponding occurs contact an onsite professional to help determine the cause and remedy.

Add more insulation to your system. This could include replacing pipe with insulated pipe, adding styrofoam over septic tanks or adding more soil cover.

The following article was written by the staff of the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center. The intent of the authors is to provide guidance to owners of private individual sewage treatment systems.

If you have any questions please contact the Building Safety Department at 763-367-7844.

## JOIN THE EAST BETHEL SENIORS

You are invited to join the East Bethel Seniors in our many activities!

*Like to play cards?* There are card and board games on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The 500 club meets on Thursdays for an afternoon of cards.

*Like to dance?* We hold a dance on the 1st Friday of each month and on some of the special holidays.

*Like to eat?* We sponsor a pancake breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

*Like to volunteer?* We have all sorts of activities for all aged seniors to participate in.

*Like to play cribbage?* There is a group that meets on Monday afternoons.

*Like to bowl?* There is a group that meets on Monday afternoons.

Call our President Barb Kunshier at 763-434-6179 for more details or come to our monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30 am at the Senior/Community Center at 2241 221st Ave. NE.

# Minnesota Census 2010 Count

by Stephanie Hanson, City Planner

The next U.S. Census is right around the corner. Citizens will begin receiving their questionnaires in mid-March. Residents are strongly encouraged to complete the short questionnaire of only 10 questions that takes just a few minutes to complete.

The 2010 Census is critical in Minnesota. Depending on the outcome, Minnesota may lose a U.S. House of Representatives seat after the 2010 Census. In addition to determining Congressional representation, Cen-

sus information determines the allocation of more than \$400 billion in federal funding for everything from education to transportation and at the local level, census data is used in the distribution formula for local government aid. The business community also uses Census information for planning, marketing, labor force projections and more.

When you fill out the Census form, you're making a statement about what resources your community needs to go forward so please a few

minutes to complete the short Census questionnaire upon receipt to make sure every one counts in Minnesota. We can't move forward until you mail it back.

For more information about Census 2010 in Minnesota, visit [www.mn2010census.org/](http://www.mn2010census.org/) or contact Stephanie Hanson, City Planner at [stephanie.hanson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:stephanie.hanson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or at (763) 367-7840.

## Accessory Structures

by Larry Martin, Building Official

With the start of a new year, it is time to address **Accessory Structures**. Before spring arrives, and the plans are made to construct a building on a sunny April weekend, there are several requirements that you need to be aware of before constructing the new structure.



Bethel. Each zoning district has regulated minimum building setbacks standards, maximum number of accessory structures allowed, the maximum allowable square footage and building

heights allowed under city ordinances.

City Code covers accessory structures in Section 14, Detached Accessory Structures in Appendix "A" of our zoning ordinance. Section 1.9 in Appendix "A" defines an accessory structure as *Any building or improvement clearly subordinate to a principle use such as garages, sheds, or storage buildings located on the same parcel as the principle structure.*

Section 14 of the city code also describes the architectural elements, exterior materials etc. that are required for detached accessory structures.

Zoning Appendix "A" sections 40 thru 50 lists the different zoning districts located in the City of East

Although city ordinances do not require that you obtain a building permit for an accessory structure **120 square foot or less**, you must comply with other ordinance regulations some of which we have addressed in this article including setback requirements.

Some examples of structures that are considered accessory structures include metal frames with a tarp or other covering, chicken coops, dog kennels etc.

Please contact the Building Department at (763) 367-7844 prior to constructing your accessory structure for assistance.

## Dollars Into \$ense Classes

A 1 1/2 hour class on the basics of developing a spending/saving plan that works. Topics covered:

- \$ Family talk about money
- \$ Tracking expenses and putting a plan together
- \$ Dealing with non-monthly expenses
- \$ Options for change
- \$ Credit Issues
- \$ Reducing Debt
- \$ Where to get additional help

2010 Dates -- 3rd Thursday of Each Month

Times -- Register for class at either 10 am or 7 pm for any date.

Where -- 10 am - Bunker Hills Activities Center, Andover

7 pm -- Anoka County Human Services Center, Anoka

Cost -- FREE!!!!

Call 763-755-1280 for more info!

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

If you plan to attend any of these meetings, please call City Hall at 763-367-7840 to confirm times and locations, or consult the City's website at <http://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us>.

City Council	January 6	7:30 pm	City Hall
Road Commission	January 12	6:30 pm	City Hall
Park Commission	January 13	7:00 pm	City Hall
City Hall - Closed Holiday	January 18	All day	City Hall
Economic Development Authority (EDA)	January 20	6:30 pm	City Hall
City Council	January 20	7:30 pm	City Hall
Planning Commission	January 26	7:00 pm	City Hall
City Council	February 3	7:30 pm	City Hall
Road Commission	February 9	6:30 pm	City Hall
Park Commission	February 10	7:00 pm	City Hall
City Hall - Closed Holiday	February 15	All day	City Hall
City Council	February 17	7:30 pm	City Hall
Planning Commission	February 23	7:00 pm	City Hall
City Council	March 3	7:30 pm	City Hall
Road Commission	March 9	6:30 pm	City Hall
Park Commission	March 10	7:00 pm	City Hall
City Council	March 17	7:30 pm	City Hall
Planning Commission	March 23	7:00 pm	City Hall

**Coon Lake Beach Community Center Activities**  
[www.coonlakebeach.org](http://www.coonlakebeach.org)  
 651-982-4628

**Membership Meeting**

2nd Monday of the Month  
 7:00 pm  
 January 11  
 February 8  
 March 8



**Senior Lunch**

4th Thursday of each month  
 Everyone is Welcome!  
 January 28  
 February 25  
 March 25

**Pancake Breakfast**

9:00 am—12:30 pm  
 January 17  
 February 7  
 February 21  
 March 7  
 March 21

**Coffee Time**

10:00 am  
 January 7  
 January 21  
 February 4  
 February 18  
 March 4  
 March 18

**Narcotics Anonymous - Tuesdays at 7:00 pm - call Paul at 651-336-0381 for more info.**

**Volunteers are Needed!  
 Call Kathy at 651-982-4628**

[www.coonlakebeach.org](http://www.coonlakebeach.org)



2241 221st Avenue NE  
East Bethel, MN 55011  
www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us

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2241 221st Avenue NE  
East Bethel, MN 55011  
(763) 367-7840  
Fax: (763) 434-9578  
Website:  
www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us

**Office Hours are**  
**Monday**  
**through**  
**Friday**  
**8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Mayor Greg Hunter - greg.hunter@ci.east-bethel.mn.us**  
**Council Member Bill Boyer - bill.boyer@ci.east-bethel.mn.us**  
**Bill Boyer's Home Number - 763-434-0637**  
**Council Member Steve Channer - steve.channer@ci.east-bethel.mn.us**  
**Steve Channer's Home Number - 763-413-7330**  
**Council Member Kathy Paavola - kathy.paavola@ci.east-bethel.mn.us**  
**Council Member Steven Voss - steve.voss@ci.east-bethel.mn.us**  
**Steven Voss's Home Number - 763-434-4562**

**City Administrator - Douglas Sell**

**Office 763-367-7840**

**Fax 763-434-9578**

**Council Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:30 pm**

**EDA 3rd Wednesday Quarterly 6:30 pm**

**HRA 1st Wednesday Quarterly 6:30 pm**

**Road Commission 2nd Tuesday 6:30 pm**

**Park Commission 2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm**

**Planning Commission 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm**

**All Meetings are at City Hall**