



News in the Park

City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project Update

The City is excited to provide an update on the 2024 City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project.

City Hall has been a central hub of our community since its opening in 1977. It is a place where you come to access essential services, engage with your local government and participate in civic activities. However, with the passage of time and growth in our community, the need for a more efficient City Hall has become evident.

The City Hall Renovation/Expansion project is designed to:

- Create a separate entrance for the Police Department and move the Police lobby to the front of the building.
- Enlarge public meeting and program spaces to better serve the community.
- Increase the number of restroom facilities to accommodate public gatherings of up to 200 people.
- Increase operational efficiency for staff.
- Improve ADA accessibility throughout the building.
- Strengthen building security for both the public and City staff.
- Expand technology to promote citizen engagement.

The estimated cost of the City Hall Renovation/Expansion project is \$8.7 million. Of this, the City will utilize over \$1.1 million in cash and \$7.6 million in bond proceeds. The bonds are a responsible and sustainable way to fund the renovation/expansion, as they allow the City to spread the cost over time while ensuring that we meet the community's needs.

We anticipate the project to start in March 2024 and last for 12 months. Staff will continue to work out of City Hall during the construction. While there will be some disruptions to residents, we will take every measure to minimize those disruptions.

During construction, the City Council and Planning Commission will move their meetings to the Able Park Building at 8200 Able Street. Many recreation programs will also move over to the Able Park Building. Updates on meeting locations, construction progress, building access changes, and potential impacts on City Hall services will be posted on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/slpmn and on the City's website.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about the City Hall Renovation/Expansion project, please feel free to contact us at 763-784-6491 or visit the project website at <https://slpmn.org/citycouncil/page/city-hall-project>.

Driver's License for All Law and Voting Eligibility

During the last Legislative session, the Legislature approved the "Driver's License for All" law, allowing all residents, regardless of their immigration status, to obtain a driver's license. One of the key features of this law is that the ID issued under it does not differentiate or indicate an individual's immigration status. The goal of the law is to provide equal access to driving privileges and promote road safety for all residents.

It is crucial to clarify that while the new driver's licenses may be used as a form of identification for various purposes, including driving, they cannot be used as a valid identification for voter registration *if* the person does not meet the citizenship requirements to vote in the United States.

In Minnesota, to be eligible to vote, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years old on Election Day.
- A resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days before Election Day.

The new driver's licenses granted under the "Driver's License for All" law does not establish citizenship. Therefore, individuals who are not U.S. citizens are not eligible to vote, even if they possess this new form of identification.

Voting illegally is a felony offense in Minnesota, punishable by up to five (5) years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

If you have any questions or concerns about your eligibility to vote, we encourage you to contact us at City Hall at 763-784-6491 or the Secretary of State's Office at 651-215-1440.

**Reminder:
Presidential Nominating Primary Election
March 5, 2024**

Early Voting January 19—March 4, 2024

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Council Round-Up

Spring Lake Park City Hall

1301 81st Avenue NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday—Friday)
General Information: 763-784-6491
Fax Number: 763-792-7257
Website: www.slpmn.org

City Council

Bob Nelson, Mayor 763-783-1889
nelson@slpmn.org

April Moran 218-269-6006
amoran@slpmn.org

Lisa Dircks 612-386-2496
ldircks@slpmn.org

Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff 763-784-4077
bbisschoff@slpmn.org

Kenneth Wendling 763-784-1936
kwendling@slpmn.org

Important Phone Numbers

Daniel Buchholtz, City Administrator 763-784-6491
dbuchholtz@slpmn.org

Fire and Police Emergency 911
Fire Non-Emergency 763-786-4436
Police Non-Emergency 763-427-1212
City Hall 763-784-6491

Meeting Broadcast Spring Lake Park Channel 16

City Council Meetings

Live: Every first and third Monday of the month at 7 PM
On-demand video link on city website.
Replays: Monday—Sunday (1:00 AM, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM)
Channel 16 Live Streaming 24/7

City Planning Commission Meetings

Live: Every fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM
On-demand video link on city website.
Replays: Monday—Friday (7:00 AM, 3:00 PM & 10:00 PM)

Spring Lake Park City Meetings on Podcast

Search “Spring Lake Park City Meetings” on Apple, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Podbean, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, or Pocketcasts. Meetings are available the day following all City Council meetings.

Connect With Spring Lake Park



Like Us on Facebook: [@slpmn](https://www.facebook.com/slpmn)



Follow Us on X: [@SpringLkPark](https://twitter.com/SpringLkPark)

Have a great photo of life in Spring Lake Park you would like to share? E-mail it to info@slpmn.org for possible inclusion in a future City publication.

October

- Conducted Improvement Hearing for the 2024 Street Improvement Project, which includes Sanburnol Drive, Elm Drive and 83rd Avenue between University Avenue and Terrace Road. Ordered improvement and preparation of plan and specifications for the project.
- Approved Plans and Specifications and Authorized Advertisement for Bids for the 2024 City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project.
- Approved resolution outlining new process for counting write-in votes for local elective office.
- Approved update to the City’s Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Adopted a Joint Powers Agreement with Anoka County to apply the City’s aid under the Voting Operations, Technology and Election Resources (VOTER) account to the City’s election obligations.

November

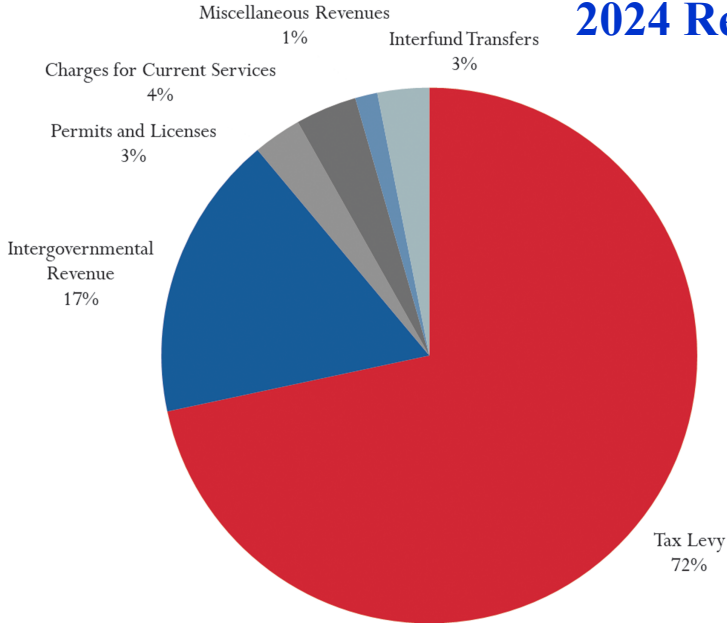
- Approved labor agreement with LELS Local #265 (Sergeants) for 2024-2025.
- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for a dog kennel license at 7925 6th Street NE.
- Accepted letter of retirement from Public Works Director Terry Randall, effective December 22, 2023.
- Approved contract with Xcel Energy for the collection of fluorescent lamps.
- Called for public hearing for December 18, 2023 on the intention to issue General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan bonds to finance the City Hall Renovation/Expansion project.
- Certified delinquent utility accounts, escrows and administrative offense tickets.
- Adopted amendments to the City’s personnel policy.
- Extended memorandum of understanding for an additional year with the Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership.

December

- Adopted Final 2023 Property Tax levy payable in 2024.
- Adopted 2024 General Fund and Public Utilities budgets.
- Approved the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan.
- Authorized plans and bids for the 2024 Seal Coat and Crack Repair Project.
- Conducted public hearing on the issuance of General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan bonds for the City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project. Granted preliminary approval for the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$8.8 million.
- Adopted 2024 Fee Schedule.
- Authorized application for Community Development Block Grant for Terrace Park improvements.
- Approved plans and specifications and ordered advertisement for bids for the 2024 Street Improvement Project.
- Established wage rates for non-bargained employees for 2024 and 2025.

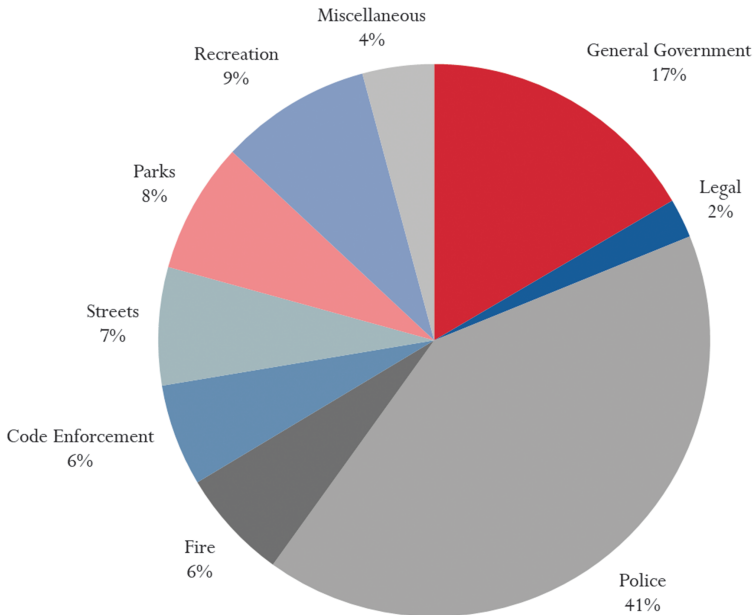
City of Spring Lake Park 2024 General Fund Budget

2024 Revenues



Property Taxes	\$3,823,887
State Aids.....	921,720
Permits, Licenses & Fees	160,289
Charges for Services.....	197,462
Miscellaneous Revenues	71,606
Interfund Transfers	<u>166,502</u>
Total	\$5,341,466

2024 Expenditures



Police	\$2,194,110
Fire	346,086
Code Enforcement	318,367
Streets	368,817
Parks	409,630
Recreation.....	473,253
General Government.....	884,803
Legal	122,500
Miscellaneous	<u>223,900</u>
Total	\$5,341,466

The 2025 budget planning process will begin in mid-June. If you have comments or suggestions regarding next year's budget, please call City Hall at 763-784-6491. Budget meetings are open to the public and the date and times for those meetings are posted at City Hall and on the City's website in advance of each scheduled meeting. Public input in this important process is encouraged and welcomed.

If you have any questions regarding the 2024 Budget, please don't hesitate to contact Administrator Daniel Buchholtz at dbuchholtz@slpmn.org.

City of Spring Lake Park Budget Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2024 budget information concerning the City of Spring Lake Park to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with M.S. 471.6965. This is not the complete City budget. The complete City budget may be examined at City Hall, 1301 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park. The City Council adopted this budget on December 4, 2023.

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Property Taxes	\$ 3,965,625	\$ 4,113,290
Licenses and Permits	\$ 154,422	\$ 160,289
Intergovernmental Revenues		
State	\$ 685,157	\$ 876,720
Federal	\$ 0	\$ 0
Charges for Services	\$ 193,924	\$ 197,462
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 65,000	\$ 85,000
Interest on Investments	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 96,615	\$ 21,606
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$ 5,170,743</u>	<u>\$ 5,464,367</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
General Government	\$ 1,233,945	\$ 1,325,670
Public Safety	\$ 2,347,336	\$ 2,417,454
Streets and Highways	\$ 307,372	\$ 368,817
Parks and Recreation	\$ 807,644	\$ 882,883
G.O. Debt Service	\$ 167,500	\$ 167,500
Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$ 159,800	\$ 136,400
Capital Outlay	\$ 296,488	\$ 332,145
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>\$ 5,320,085</u>	<u>\$ 5,630,869</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ (149,342)	\$ (166,502)
Other Financing Sources and Uses	\$ 149,342	\$ 166,502
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 0	\$ 0
Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund the Budget	\$ 3,965,625	\$ 4,113,290



With winter upon us and snowfall certain, parking is more difficult than ever. Be advised, the City of Spring Lake Park still enforces all parking restrictions, along with no overnight parking on city streets. Below you will find the most common code enforcement citations in regards to parking.

- All vehicles parked or stored outside the garage must be operable. The City shall not allow any partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked or disabled vehicles.
- All vehicles stored outside the garage shall be parked on an approved driveway.
- Every motor vehicle or trailer which is parked outside of the garage shall display license plates with current registration tags.
- Off-street parking of commercial vehicles is prohibited in any residential district, with the following exceptions. Up to one ton carrying capacity, tractors used for pulling trailers and commercial busses, but only if parked as part of an ongoing trip for hire.

Code Enforcement “Code of the Season”

No person shall throw, deposit, place or dump, or cause to be thrown, deposited, placed or dumped upon any street or highway or upon any public or privately-owned land adjacent thereto any snow and/or ice without the owner's consent. (M.S. 169.42 Subd. 1) This is a Minnesota State Statute concerning snow removal, it applies to both commercial and residential properties. Please email the City at info@slpmn.org with concerns or complaints.

Replacing Smoke Alarms

Why do I need to replace my smoke alarms every 10 years?

It is required that smoke alarms be replaced within 10 years according to NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. They are not permitted to remain in use longer than 10 year from the date of manufacture. Also, the manufacturer’s instructions for most smoke alarms state they are to be replaced when they fail to respond or after 10 years. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms must be replaced when the end-of-life signal sounds or 10 years after the date of manufacture, whichever occurs first.

How do I identify my smoke alarm’s date of manufacture?

Remove the alarm from the ceiling or wall. Look at the back or side of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

How do I replace a smoke alarm?

Remove the smoke alarm from the ceiling by twisting the alarm to remove it from the ceiling or wall plate. If the alarm is hard-wired, you will also need to disconnect the wiring connector at the back of the alarm. Make sure you have turned off the electricity to the smoke alarm before you begin replacing the alarm. It is best to replace the alarm with the same manufactured alarm. The new alarm from the same manufacturer can be placed on the ceiling or wall plate. Twist to secure the alarm. Test the alarm to be sure it is working.

If you are replacing with an alarm from a different manufacturer, you will need to remove the old ceiling or wall plate and install the new ceiling or wall plate included with the new alarm. Place the alarm over the ceiling plate and twist to secure the alarm. Test the alarm to be sure it is working.

Can I replace a hard-wired smoke alarm with a battery only alarm?

No. You cannot replace an existing hard-wired alarm with a battery-operated alarm. Existing hard-wired alarms must be replaced with hard-wired smoke alarms and existing battery-operated alarms with a battery-operated alarm only.

How do I install a hard-wired smoke alarm?

Contact a qualified electrician to install hard-wired smoke alarms.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Detectors

The legislature, in 2006, passed a carbon monoxide (CO) law (MN § 299F.50) requiring CO detectors/alarms in all single-family homes and multi-family apartment units. Effective January 1, 2007 all newly constructed single-family homes and multi-family dwelling units for which building permits were issued on or after January 1, 2007 shall be provided with approved carbon monoxide detectors/alarms. Effective August 1, 2008, all existing single-family homes shall be equipped with approved carbon monoxide detectors/alarms. Effective August 1, 2009 all other multi-family or apartment dwelling units shall be provided with approved CO detectors/alarms.

All carbon monoxide detectors/alarms must be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (U/L) Standards (also known as UL2034 Standards).

General Location Requirements:

Every single-family dwelling and every multi-family dwelling unit shall be provided with a minimum of one approved and fully operational carbon monoxide detector/alarm installed within 10 feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. If bedrooms are located on separate floors additional carbon monoxide detectors/alarms would be necessary within 10 feet of these areas.

Battery Removal and Tampering Prohibited:

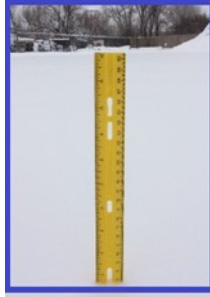
No person shall remove batteries from, or in any way render inoperable, a required carbon monoxide detector/alarm.

REMINDER: Please test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors/alarms monthly and replace your batteries yearly.

If you have any questions regarding smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors and alarms, please call the Spring Lake Park Fire Marshall at 763-784-6491.

Winter Parking Restrictions are in Effect

Just a reminder, do not park on any city street between the hours of 2:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Also, we are in the midst of winter, meaning we will get more snow. With that being said, there is no parking regardless of the time of day on city streets if there is a snowfall of more than three (3) inches of snow until the streets are plowed curb to curb. This is to allow Public Works to make sure the streets are clear and prevent damage to the equipment.



General Home Safety Tips

Here are some basic tips for keeping yourself and your home safe, especially during this time of extended night hours. These tips are also useful throughout the year.

- Make sure to leave a light on or have a motion sensing light during the longer times of darkness.
- Close your garage door, lock the door into your house, and remove the keys from your vehicles.
- Place your outgoing mail in an official US Postal Service collection box. Never leave outgoing mail in your curbside mailbox with the flag up. This can be an invitation for thieves to get your personal information.
- Move all your valuables from your vehicle, including your garage door opener, if your vehicle will be left outside overnight.
- Make sure your carbon monoxide detectors are working, and have your furnace tuned up for peak efficiency. A good rule of thumb is to change the batteries in your smoke/ carbon monoxide detectors and test them when we change the clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

Ice Safety

We have a number of lakes and ponds near our community. Remember, no ice is 100% safe. There are many factors to determine about ice and its thickness. Changing temperatures, snow cover and even schools of fish under the ice can affect the ice and how it forms. Ice also does not freeze uniformly, so one location be a foot thick while its only inches thick just a few feet away. Here is a guide from the MN DNR for ice safety thickness.

Ice is Never 100% Safe!
Minimum Ice Thickness Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only

Person	Motorcycle	Car	Truck
4"	5"	8-12"	12-15"

Ice Safety Tips

- Double the thickness guidelines for white or snow-covered ice.
- Carry two large nails to use as ice picks if you fall through.
- Avoid pressure ridges and areas with current.
- Warn children about the dangers of thin ice.
- Don't drive on the ice at night.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages.

mndnr.gov/icesafety | DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Please be mindful when driving, especially if there is snow and/or ice on the roadways. Plan for extra time to get to your destination, and don't follow other vehicles too closely. You want to have a safe stopping distance to prevent any crash or other incident. If you do find yourself in an emergency situation, here are some tips to keep you, your passengers and vehicle safe.

- Stay in your vehicle for safety.
- Make sure your vehicle can be seen. Keep your hazard lights on or place a bright marker on your antenna.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow. Only run your vehicle periodically to keep warm.

And avoid risky driving behaviors. Do not text or drive distracted, obey all speed limits and drive for the road conditions, and always drive sober. Remember to wear your seatbelt!



Stay Healthy This Cold Season

It is inevitable that the cold and flu will be going around this winter. Keep yourself and others healthy by following these tips.

- Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you have a fever unless you need medical attention.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces to prevent the spread of germs.
- Practice healthy habits such as getting plenty of sleep, do something active each day, manage your stress, stay hydrated and eat nutritious food.

Connect with Us and Contact Us When You Need To

Follow us on Facebook for news and useful information on what is happening in our community. Simply search for "Spring Lake Park Police Department" and follow us.

The officers of Spring Lake Park Police Department serve the City and its citizens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Please call 9-1-1 *for any reason*, and Anoka County Central Communications will dispatch an officer. We do not dispatch from our office. If you need to speak with a *specific Officer*, Police Administration or Investigator, our front office is available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Please call the office at 763-792-7200 in those instances.



Carbon Monoxide 101

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas. Your senses cannot detect its presence. CO is produced by anything in your home that burns fuel inefficiently. Sources can include, but are not limited to gas dryers, furnace, stove/burner or water heater, fireplace, automobile fumes, and portable heaters.

It is important to have a CO alarm for early warning and detection. SBM recommends a digital readout plug-in unit with a battery backup.

In MN, you must install CO alarms within 10 feet of the bedrooms. If people sleep on multiple levels, there must be a CO alarm on every level. Check CO alarms regularly to be sure they are functioning properly. CO alarms last between five (5) years per the manufacturer’s date, which is located on the back of the device.



Do you hear a “chirp?” Much of the time this is either an indicator that you need to replace the battery or your CO alarm has reached the unit’s end of life (check the manufacture date on the back).

If you’re interested in participating in a CO data study and receiving a free CO alarm or you want to schedule a confidential home safety survey, call 763-767-4003. For a short survey regarding home safety, visit <https://bit.ly/2VO1hNX>.

Live Fire Extinguisher Training (Adults only)

Have you ever actually used a fire extinguisher? You have likely seen information on how to use them and what to do in the event of a fire, but maybe you’ve never had the chance to pull the pin and spray the extinguisher.

With SBM’s new state-of-the-art fire extinguisher prop now is your chance to learn how they work and get hands-on experience! This is a fun, free class that will be held monthly at various locations. Our first quarter sessions of the year are as follows: January 22 at SBM Station 1, February 20 at SBM Station 3, March 20 at SBM Station 2. All classes start at 7:00PM and will last about an hour.

Class sizes are limited so call Chief Jeff Lundquist today at 763-767-4012 or email jlundquist@sbmfire.org to reserve your spot.



SBM Fire Car Seat Checks

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, more than half of all car seats in vehicles are not used or installed correctly. The Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department has car seat technicians ready to assist.

Car seat inspections and installations are free of charge, and you do not need to be a resident to utilize this service. Inspections and installations are done by appointment only by one of our certified technicians. Day, evening, and weekend appointments are available.

For questions or to schedule a car seat appointment, call Ashley Krepsky at 763-231-1802.



Home Safety Challenge

Have you ever been curious how your home or residence stacks up against potential hazards ranging from fires, electrical plug-ins, storage, escape plans and more? We need you! SBM has a free home safety challenge free to all our residents. Help us reach our 2024 goal of reviewing 200 homes this year. One lucky name will be drawn at the end of the year to win a prize.



Please visit our website www.sbmfire.org and scroll down to Community Programs and select Home Safety Challenge to schedule your visit.

Follow SBM on Social Media

Our goal for 2024 is to reach 10,000 followers on our Facebook page. Please like us on Facebook at Spring Lake Park, Blaine, Mounds View Fire Department, or follow us on Instagram and TikTok at @SBMFireDept.



Public Works Director Terry Randall Retires

On December 22, 2023 Spring Lake Park’s dedicated Public Works Director celebrated his retirement from the City.

Terry started with the City of Spring Lake Park on September 25, 2000. Over the past 23 years, Terry has overseen the construction of two lift stations, countless street projects as he implemented the City’s Pavement Management Program, the purchase of the Public Works building, implementation of storm water improvements to reduce community flooding from storms we’ve experienced, and lining the City’s sanitary sewer system. Terry’s dedication to finding cost effective ways to maintain our infrastructure and equipment not only saved our community money but left an enduring legacy of sustainability and sound stewardship for our community. Terry’s leadership extends far beyond the projects he managed. He has been a mentor, a friend, and a source of inspiration for all of us who have had the privilege of working alongside him. His ability to build relationships with staff, Councilmembers and residents, brought people together to foster collaboration and instilled a sense of pride and purpose in our community. In Terry’s 23 years with the City he says his favorite part about his job was the relationships he built with his co-workers.



We wish him well in his retirement. Thank you for all your years of hard work, Terry!

Meet Spring Lake Park’s New Public Works Director

Name:
George Linngren

Position:
Public Works Director

Began Working at the City:
October 2023

Background:
I worked for 18 years at the City of Blaine and nine (9) years previous at Columbia Heights in Public Works. I have done commercial baking, driven bus and limousine, carpentry, and remodeling.



Best Part of Working for the City:
I really enjoy the small town feeling where you don’t get lost in a sea of people, getting to know the residents and businesses, and helping them when they need us.

Hobbies/Interests Outside of Work:
Construction and remodeling. I helped gut and renovate my daughter’s house last year and I am looking at adding onto my own home. I also enjoy golfing and being outdoors in the Summer and spending time with my three (3) granddaughters and one (1) grandson born in January.

Fun Fact about you:
I have two (2) rescue dogs at home. One is a Boxer mix that is seven (7) and she just “gets me”. The other is a protective three (3) year old German Shephard with lots of energy. I also have 17 chickens that I raised from chicks.

Frequently Asked Questions about Snow Plowing

With the winter season in full gear, Public Works would like to provide some answers to the most commonly asked questions about snow plowing operations and snow removal responsibilities.



Q1. When does the City begin plowing snow?
The Public Works Director decides when to begin snow plowing operations. This decision is based upon various factors including snow accumulation, drifting of snow and icy conditions affecting travel, time of snowfall in relationship to heavy traffic, air and pavement temperatures, and weather forecast. Snow plowing is expensive and Public Works has only a limited amount of equipment and personnel to perform this work.

Q2. When will my street be snow plowed?
Streets will be snow plowed in the most efficient manner possible. This means that streets in the same vicinity will typically be plowed one after the other. However, the City has designated some streets as Priority Snow Plow Routes that may be plowed first or more often than other streets during major winter storms. These priority streets usually have more traffic and connect major sections of the city to provide emergency access for fire, police, and medical services.

Q3. Why do the snowplows sometimes come by a second time and leave a windrow of snow on the end of my driveway after I already shoveled it?
Snow plows only have to make one pass by your driveway during normal winter storms. A second pass is sometimes required during bigger winter storms to clear the entire width of the street. This sometimes results in having a windrow of heavy snow placed at the end of your driveway. This windrow might even occur the day after a major winter storm since snow plow drivers might only be able to make one pass on the day of the storm.

Q4.Can I throw the snow from my driveway into the street if the street has not been plowed?

No – this is illegal, under Minnesota State Statute 160.27. All snow removed from driveways must be placed next to the driveway on private property. It is unlawful to deposit snow from your driveway into the street, sidewalk, boulevard, or neighbor’s property – regardless if plowing has or has not occurred. If you have a contractor plow snow from your driveway, it is unlawful for them to push the snow across the street and the homeowner will be responsible for these actions.

Q5.My mailbox was damaged when the snowplow came by – will the City repair it?

It depends. Most instances of damaged mailboxes occur when the snow being plowed is pushed into the mailbox and breaks it – in which case the homeowner is responsible to fix the mailbox.

The City is responsible for damaged mailboxes only if the snow plow makes a direct physical contact with the mailbox. In addition, the City will not be responsible for any irrigation systems, landscaping, trees, shrubs, or other private property installed in the City boulevard (the grass area ten to twenty feet from the street edge) damaged by snow plowing operations.

Q6.I noticed my lawn was scalped by the snowplow – who will repair it?

The City will repair any lawns that were damaged by snow plow blades. Public Works will restore the damaged lawn by leveling out the damaged area, if necessary, and spreading black dirt, fertilizer, and seed. Lawn damage is typically limited to streets without concrete curbs.

Be Safe This Winter

Stay at least 75 feet away when traveling behind snow removal equipment of any kind. In addition, move away from the street as soon as you see the snow plow moving toward you. Snow plows are unable to stop quickly and must keep their momentum in order to keep the snow removal process going and not get stuck in heavy snow.



For everyone’s safety, DO NOT pass the unit unless instructed by the driver. Respect the snow plow operators and the difficult work that they are performing on your behalf. Lastly, remind your children to keep snow forts and other structures in the yard away from the street and out of the boulevard. Children should also play and slide in a safe location away from the streets.

Exciting News!

The City of Spring Lake Park is getting new Utility Billing software. The utility bill that you will receive in April for your 1st quarter 2024 usage will look a little different. Please watch your mail closely so your utility bill does not accidentally get thrown out.



Utility Bills

The January (4th quarter 2023 usage) bills were mailed and eBills, the online delivery, uploaded on December 31, 2023. **If you have not received your statement by January 8, 2024 please contact Breanna at 763-792-7213.**

If you enrolled in eBill and haven’t received an email stating that your bill is ready to view, check your spam or junk folder. You may need to contact your internet provider to let them know it is not spam.



Payments are due January 30, 2024. If you are unable to meet the due date, your payment should include the applicable late fee outlined on your quarterly bill. Payments can be mailed to City Hall at 1301 81st Ave NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. We also have a payment slot located in the entry of City Hall that is available 24/7. The City accepts bank and credit union bill pay checks, personal checks, money orders, cash (the exact amount or small bills are appreciated) and credit/debit card payments. Credit/debit card payments either by phone, online or in person all carry a convenience fee. The City does not offer auto-pay at this time. Timely payments are greatly appreciated.

Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

When making your payments or enrolling in eBill, please make sure to include the dashes in your account number.

Reminder to Snowbirds

The City is happy to mail statements to a secondary address if you are heading south for the winter months, or you can pre-pay your account. Please update the Utility Billing office if you expect to pack away your winter parka and boots for shorts and flipflops.



FAMILY Events

At our parks and facilities

Bring the whole family for a fun and enjoyable afternoon of ice skating at Able Park!

SNOW DAY

at Able Park



While taking a break around the campfire, enjoy some music, hot chocolate, s'mores, and other refreshments.

Springbrook Nature Center will be providing snowshoes for families to use throughout the park!



FREE

Saturday, Jan 13 | 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Location: Able Park

Snow Buddy Scavenger Hunt

Monday, Feb 12 - Friday, Feb 16

FREE

In this hunt, you and your family will receive clues about which of our City Parks our Snow Buddy may be hiding in that day. Snap a selfie with our Snow Buddy, and post it to our Facebook Page. Each family who participates will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to a local food store! The more you find our Snow Buddy, the more entries you get!



Sweetheart Dance

The SLP Recreation Department, Spring Lake Park Schools and the SLP Lions Club are happy to bring you our Parent/Grandparent + Child Sweetheart Dance!



Families are invited to join us for a magical evening of dancing, crafts, snacks, and quality time spent together. Children will receive a take home "swag" bag with goodies! Casual or formal dress welcome.

Snacks and refreshments included.

Location: Spring Lake Park High School
Kenneth Hall (Enter Door #33)

Friday, Feb 9 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Fee: \$7/pair + \$3.50 for each additional participant

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, Mar 23 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

FREE

Location: Lakeside Lions Park

Sponsored by the Spring Lake Park Lions Club

This annual event is structured for children ages 2-12, where participants will hunt for eggs in separate age groups. Each participant will receive a specific bag to collect their goodies (no outside bags or baskets are allowed). All hunts begin promptly on time, so please be sure to allow enough time to park (no parking in the park), sign-in, and find your child's designated area.

Hunt sign-in is between 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM.

Each age group will hunt in a designated area of the park. Ages 2 - 4 will begin at 12:40 PM, Ages 5 - 7 at 1:00 PM, Ages 8 - 12 at 1:20 PM



Spring Break Outings

Ages 6 - 12

Drop off/pick up: Able Park

Participants will be transported to and spend the non-field trip portion of the day at New Brighton Community Center.

Please pack an allergy-free bag lunch & weather-appropriate clothing.

Crayola Experience Outing

Our trip to Crayola Experience at the Mall of America will include a live demonstration of how crayons are made and access to 26 hands-on attractions that explore all things color. Everyone will receive their own Scribble Scrubbie fuzzy pet toy to keep!

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Tue	Mar 12	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	\$68	Mar 5

Music Together - Demo

Discover the joy of making Music Together! Sing, laugh, move and learn along with your baby, toddler or preschooler for 45 minutes during this free demo session. You and your child will attend the demo session. When registering, only register the child. (Ages 0-5)

Location: Mounds View Community Center

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Mon	Mar 18	9:15 - 10:00 AM	Free	Mar 11

Red Cross Babysitters Course

(Ages 9-17)

Location: SLP City Hall

This one day course is offered to kids who wish to learn child care skills. Our certified Red Cross Instructor Allison Curtis will teach students basic childcare including child development, supervision, accident prevention, emergency response, feeding, and infant care, as well as some basic first aid skills. Please register early - class sizes are limited!

**Please pack an allergy-free lunch for your child.*



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Sat	Jan 27	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	\$58	Jan 22
Sat	Mar 2	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	\$58	Feb 26

MN Zoo Outing

We will visit the Minnesota Trail to get an up close look at wolves, bears, wolverines, owls, pumas and other animals native to MN. We'll see sharks, stingrays, dolphins, seahorses, and tons of tropical fish. Last, we will walk some of the brand new "Treetop Trail" that rises 32 feet over the animals.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Mar 13	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	\$68	Mar 6

SkyZone Outing

SkyZone is a trampoline park that includes multiple attractions and challenges including a freestyle jump area, dodgeball and basketball zones, foam pit, a skyladder balance challenge, ninja warrior course, warped wall, and mega launch slide.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Thu	Mar 14	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	\$68	Mar 7

Music Together - Class

Discover the joy of making Music Together! Sing, laugh, move and learn along with your baby, toddler or preschooler for 45 minutes of pure fun each week in these award-winning classes. (Ages 0-5)



Location: Mounds View Community Center

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Mon	Jan 8 - Mar 11	9:15 - 10:00 AM	\$195	Jan 1
Mon	Apr 1 - Jun 10	9:15 - 10:00 AM	\$195	Mar 25



for
Summer Playgrounds & Wednesday Outings
this summer!

Tower Days Button Contest

Children and Adult Divisions
Rules and Entry Form at www.slpsec.org
Winners ride in the parade as Community Grand Marshalls and receive a \$50 gift card
Entry Deadline: February 22, 2024 at Noon



Register online at www.slpsec.org



Badwolf Adventure Studios is an independent game store whose focus is to provide a premier tabletop gaming experience. Featuring curated music and lighting, interactive digital maps, custom miniatures, and professional Game Masters, the Studio strives to immerse each player into their own unique story. Tailored for young minds, these classes offer a magical blend of creative expression, teamwork, and critical thinking. Dungeons & Dragons provides a unique space for socialization, fostering friendships, and empowering each child to be the hero of their own story. Join us in unlocking the door to a world where imagination knows no bounds—enroll your child today for an epic journey of growth, camaraderie, and endless possibilities!

Parent/Child Learn-to-Play
(Ages 8+)

Join us for a special Learn-to-Play session, designed for parents and children to attend together! Participants will learn the ins and outs of this classic tabletop role-playing game with a hands-on instructor. They'll then create a character and enjoy a short segment of gameplay using what they've learned. Math, teambuilding, and critical thinking skills will be highlighted throughout the session. **Additional \$24 per extra child.**



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Feb 21	6:00 - 8:00 PM	\$72	Feb 19

Spring Break Camp
(Ages 10-17)

Kick off Spring Break with a day of Adventure! Register your favorite young hero for 6 hours of kid-friendly Dungeons & Dragons. This day camp includes two, three-hour sessions of campaign play with our professional game masters, and gaming breaks where the players can meet with peers who share a love of the hobby. Players of all experience levels are welcome! Bring an allergy-free lunch. **Location:** Mounds View Community Center



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Mon	Mar 11	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	\$84	Mar 4

Youth Co-Rec Softball

This is a recreation co-ed program for ages 5 - 17. Child must turn required age by May 13, 2024.

EarlyBird Registration Fee: \$75/child until March 21.

After 4:30 PM March 21, late registration fee is \$85/child pending league availability.

If a family has more than two children in any age division, the additional children in the same family pay \$35 each.

Adult Co-Rec Softball League Summer Season (Ages 18+)

Enjoy a Sunday evening of low competition, co-rec softball! Teams will play regular season games and an end-of-season tournament. Fee includes umpires, equipment, championship awards, and sales tax. **Location:** Terrace Park



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Sun	Starts Apr 8, 10 weeks + tournament	4:00 - 9:00 PM	\$508/team	Apr 21

Yoga (Ages 18+)

Explore this ancient exercise system that strengthens the body while calming and focusing the mind. Classes include classic Hatha or stretching, breathing practices, and guided relaxation and meditation. **Location:** SLP City Hall

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Thu	Jan 4 - Jan 25	6:00 - 7:30 PM	\$36	Jan 3
Thu	Feb 1 - Feb 29	6:00 - 7:30 PM	\$36	Jan 31
Thu	Mar 7 - Mar 28	6:00 - 7:30 PM	\$36	Mar 6
Thu	Apr 4 - Apr 25	6:00 - 7:30 PM	\$45	Apr 3

Chair Yoga with Dawn (Ages 18+)

Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that adapts Traditional poses to be performed while sitting on a chair, making it accessible for individuals with limited mobility or those who prefer a seated practice. **Location:** SLP City Hall



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Jan 10 - Mar 13	9:45 - 10:30 AM	\$90	Jan 5
Thu	Feb 1 - Feb 29	9:45 - 10:30 AM	\$90	Jan 25

Zumba (Ages 18+)

Love to Dance? Join the Party! This specialty course is designed for those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle or the older active adult. Zumba fitness is for everyone, all shapes and sizes and just about any age. **Location:** QC Dance Studio

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Feb 7 - Feb 28	8:00 - 8:45 PM	\$40	Jan 31
Wed	Mar 20 - Apr 10	8:00 - 8:45 PM	\$40	Mar 13

Register online at www.slprec.org

Jeff Sandino Cooking Classes

Asian Favorites

You'll begin by preparing delicious egg rolls stuffed with pork, shrimp and vegetables served with both hot mustard and sweet and sour sauce for dipping. You'll then prepare fried rice using chicken, shrimp, vegetables, and secret sauce. Classic pork chow mien served with crispy egg noodles along with egg foo young made with chicken and shrimp. We'll finish this extravaganza with a delightful lemon custard tort. This is a participation class.



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Tue	Feb 6	6:00 - 9:00 PM	\$45	Feb 5

Tantalizing Thai Cuisine

You'll begin by preparing Vietnamese summer rolls served with hoisin and peanut sauce for dipping. Vietnamese spring rolls fried, and served with the classic Nước chấm for dipping. You'll then prepare Pad Thai blending the vibrant flavors of Thailand with rice. For dessert, refreshing Thai lime custard topped with fresh whipped cream. This is a participation class.



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Tue	May 21	6:00 - 9:00 PM	\$45	May 20

Mature Driver Courses

Location: Spring Lake Park City Hall

Did you know you can receive a 10% discount on your car insurance if you take a "Mature Drivers" Course? Minnesota has more than 1.5 million drivers age 55 and older — accounting for more than 20% of all licensed drivers in the state in 2020 — yet only a quarter of them have taken a class, which comes with a state-mandated 10% reduction in car insurance rates annually. *(Star Tribune 12/5/2022)*



Mature Driver 4-Hour Refresher Course

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Feb 7	12:30 - 4:30 PM	\$29	Jan 17
Wed	Apr 3	12:30 - 4:30 PM	\$29	Mar 13

Mature Driver 8-Hour New Student Course

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Feb 28 & Mar 6	4:30 - 8:30 PM	\$29	Jan 17

Family Style Italian Cuisine

You'll be preparing chicken cacciatore simmered in a delightful marinara sauce. You'll enjoy beef braciola stuffed with prosciutto ham and parmesan cheese in a savory burgundy sauce. We'll pair these delicacies with creamy, garlic mashed potatoes, and tender green beans. We'll finish with Crème brûlée, a rich, creamy custard with a caramel crust. This is a participation class.



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Mar 13	6:00 - 9:00 PM	\$45	Mar 12

Bodacious Brunch Buffet

We'll begin with tender fresh berry and white chocolate scones. The fresh fruit salad follows with a delightful sauce for dipping. Featured are both crab cakes and coconut shrimp. You'll learn to prepare quiche baked in a flaky pastry crust. Also, a twist on eggs benedict stacking, poached eggs on brioche with black forest ham and velvety hollandaise sauce. French toast finishes this extravaganza using fresh baked croissants soaked in a rich bath of custard, sautéed to a honey brown crispness and topped with pure maple syrup and fresh whipped cream. Demonstration Class.



Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Wed	Apr 10	6:00 - 9:00 PM	\$45	Apr 9

Coffee and Treats Seminars (Free)

Join us for engaging and enlightening free educational talks accompanied by complimentary coffee and treats. **Location:** Able Park Bldg.

Parkinson's: Everyone's experience is unique, and no single one of these signs means a person has Parkinson's. Offered in corporation with Parkinson's Foundation Minnesota & Dakotas Chapter.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Thu	Feb 15	10:00 AM - Noon	\$0	Feb 8

Loony Tune: Explore the fascinating world of the MN Loon with Naturalist Melonie Shipman's engaging presentation, filled with captivating images, activities, and stories.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Fee	Deadline
Tues	Apr 9	10:00 AM - Noon	\$0	Apr 2

Arts & Craft Classes

- Garden Art-Wine Bottle Wind Chimes
- Beginning Crocheting & Knitting
- Painting Classes

Visit www.slprec.org for more information

2024 Recycling Days

March 9 | May 11 | July 13 | September 14 | November 9
8:00 AM—Noon
Recycle Technologies—10040 Davenport St NE, Blaine, MN
ID Will Be Required



Residents are responsible for any costs above \$30.



RECYCLE 2 ITEMS FOR FREE W/COUPON (UP TO \$30.00)

- Appliances—all major household (no ammonia)
- Batteries—household, rechargeable and vehicle
- Cell phones, Eyeglasses, Ink Cartridges and Hearing Aids
- Computer Towers, Laptops, Tablets, Keyboards, and accessories
- Electronics—DVD/VCR/CD player, stereo, copiers, speaker, power tools, small appliances, game consoles, etc.
- Hard drive destruction (if not with computer)
- TVs & Computers
- Mattresses
- Box Springs
- Tires

RECYCLE FOR FREE WITHOUT COUPON

- Fluorescent Lamps, Bulbs, Ballasts. **DO NOT tape lamps together**
- Holiday Lights—string lights only, no rope lights or decorations
- Scrap Metal—Remove all non-metal parts, no auto hulks

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- No child car seats
- No carpet
- No furniture, household goods
- No garbage
- No building, construction or compost materials
- No household hazardous waste (paint, oil propane tanks, etc.)
- No carbon monoxide or smoke detectors



Recycle Technologies reserves the right to refuse items.

Please **DO NOT** drop off items before or after the event.

Questions on the event?

Contact Haley Morrison at 763-792-7240 or hmorrison@slpmn.org

These events are funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners & State SCORE funds (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment)

Recycle Smart – Recycle Scrap Metal at a Drop-off Not Curbside!

What is considered a random metal item that should not be recycled curbside? Metal pots and pans, bakeware, pipes, automotive parts, tire rims, fencing, shelving, hangers, tools, chains, hardware and basically any metal item is considered scrap metal.

Reduce/Reuse: Many metal items that are not rusty, bent or broken can be donated. Some non-profit organizations have job training programs where participants learn to fix small engine equipment. Building products are sold at various reuse stores. Remember to shop used first.

Recycle Scrap Metal at Drop-offs!

The good news is **all** metals that aren't accepted in curbside recycling, are recyclable anywhere that collects scrap metal. Many municipal recycling drop-off centers and recycling days accept scrap metal for recycling. Local scrap metal businesses collect many types of metals. All fluids should be drained, and any non-metal items removed prior to recycling small engine equipment.



Since scrap metal is so recyclable, why can't it be put in my curbside bin?

Recycling sorting facilities are not made to handle bulky, heavy metal objects. The system is set up to sort lightweight aluminum cans/food trays and small food cans. Heavy scrap metal can damage equipment and harm workers sorting the recyclables.

Small items like pop tabs can be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Other small items, nails, nuts or bolts should be brought to a scrap metal dealer in a container to make sure they don't get lost amongst the other metals.

Go to Anoka.CountyMN.gov/RecyclingDirectory for more information on what is recyclable and where to take items that don't belong in your curbside recycling cart.

What metal items can be recycled curbside?

- Food and beverage cans (rinsed free of food debris)
- Aluminum trays or pie tins (rinsed free of food debris)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Protect Our Water, Be Salt Smart!

Salt pollution is a rising concern for many local lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands, including those in Spring Lake Park. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently announced its intent to add Laddie Lake, located at the corner of HWY 10 & 65, to the 2024 Impaired Waters List due to a concerning rise in salt concentrations. A study by the University of Minnesota found that about 78% of salt applied in the Twin Cities for winter maintenance is either transported to groundwater or remains in the local lakes, creeks, and wetlands.

Unlike other pollutants such as phosphorus or sediment, there is no practical way to remove excess salt from our waterways. As little as one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of fresh water. Salt pollution damages the quality of our drinking water and harms animals that can't live in salty environments.

Following four simple steps this winter can help protect our local water resources.

- 1) **Shovel** walkways before snow turns to ice and before you apply salt.
- 2) **Select** the right de-icer. Salt doesn't melt ice when temperatures are below 15 degrees, switch to sand when temperatures dip low.
- 3) **Scatter** salt granules roughly three (3) inches apart. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
- 4) **Sweep** up any excess salt and de-icer for reuse.

Want to take it a step further? Consider volunteering as a local Salt Watcher through the Izaak Walton League, a national program partnering with the Coon Creek Watershed District to monitor salt levels in local water runoff. Data collected by volunteers is used to inform, adjust, and improve local management practices. Become a Salt Watch volunteer at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/salt-watch>.



Photo by Low Salt. No Salt. Minnesota



1301 81st Avenue NE
Spring Lake Park MN 55432

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Upcoming Events

Office Closed (New Year's Day)	Jan 1
City Council Meeting	Jan 2
Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	Jan 15
City Council Meeting	Jan 16
Absentee Voting Begins	Jan 19
Planning Commission Meeting	Jan 22
City Council Meeting	Feb 6
Office Closed (Presidents Day)	Feb 19
City Council Meeting	Feb 20
Planning Commission Meeting	Feb 26
Absentee Voting 9AM—3PM at City Hall	Mar 2
Absentee Voting Ends	Mar 4
City Council Meeting	Mar 4
Election Day—Emmanuel Christian Center	Mar 5
Recycling Day (8AM—Noon Recycle Technologies)	Mar 9
Daylight Savings Begins	Mar 10
City Council Meeting	Mar 18
Planning Commission Meeting	Mar 25
City Council Meeting	Apr 1
City Council Meeting	Apr 15
Planning Commission Meeting	Apr 22
Recycling Day (8AM-Noon ISD16 Dist. Offices)	Apr 27
Spring Leaf Drop-Off Begins (Lakeside Lions Park)	Apr 27

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM, and are held at Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Ave NE.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Fort Spring Lake Park is comprised of members of Kraus-Hartig VFW Post 6587, the City of Spring Lake Park, the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well Being, St. Timothy's Catholic Church, the Spring Lake Park School District, and a host of volunteers from our community.

Have you stopped by the Post for our monthly pork chop fry? The pork chop fry is the fourth Monday of every month from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. For \$10.00 you get a great pork chop dinner including a baked potato, vegetable, applesauce, and a dinner roll. All proceeds assist area veterans who need our help through Fort Spring Lake Park. Our efforts are funded in large part by donations and staffed by hard working volunteers and local businesses.

Spring Lake Park is proud to be a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon City, supporting our men and women in the military and their families. You can find our home page link on the City of Spring Lake Park's website. The site has a lot of information for service members and their families. You can also find us on Facebook by typing Fort Spring Lake Park into the search bar.

If you are in need of support from Fort Spring Lake Park, you can make a confidential call to Kraus-Hartig VFW to Commander Bob Wiltse 612-419-7522. Please know that we are grateful for your service to our country and are here to serve you.

When You Change Your
CLOCKS...



Check Your ALARMS!



Replace smoke alarms after 10 years
Replace CO alarms after 5-7 years
Replace alkaline batteries twice each year

Spring Ahead
March 10
Daylight Savings Begins

Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour
Replace the batteries in your Smoke/CO2 detectors



FILM YOUR HISTORY

Local seniors can film their life and family stories FREE at North Metro TV.
northmetrotv.com/yourhistory