

CityNews



WINTER 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN



Photo U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office

2010 CENSUS: It's In Our Hands

In March of 2010, every household will receive a 2010 Census Form as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial count of U.S. residents. The census directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding and affects political representation. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period. Having a complete count means a community can compete for its fair share of that funding.

Census data also affects your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives. If Minnesota's population doesn't keep pace with

some other states, our state could potentially lose a seat in the House. The figures are also used locally—they help determine everything from state legislative districts to school district boundaries.

The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person—name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race, and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail.

We encourage your participation in the 2010 Census. If you'd like more information, please visit the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov.

Winter Parking Essentials to Know

Winter brings its own parking issues. The Apple Valley Police Department would like to bring to your attention three winter parking essentials.

City ordinance prohibits on-street parking for more than five minutes between 3 and 6 a.m. Although this rule is in effect throughout the year, it is important in the winter to keep vehicles off the roadways overnight when snow could fall and bring out the plows.

City ordinance also prohibits parking on city streets at any time during snow plowing operations. If you hear a forecast of two or more inches of snow, find off-street parking.

City ordinance also prohibits leaving keys inside or the ignition running on an unlocked, unattended vehicle. Vehicle thefts happen often when owners leave their vehicle running to warm it up.

Keep these winter parking essentials in mind for a hassle-free winter season.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #419
St. Paul MN 55124

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER

City of Apple Valley
7100 147th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-953-2500
<http://www.cityofapplevalley.org>

City Council
Mary Hamann-Roland..... Mayor
John M. Bergman..... Councilmember
Thomas C. Goodwin..... Councilmember
Ruth A. Grendahl..... Councilmember
Sharon LaComb..... Councilmember



Thank you!

In 2008, the City of Apple Valley implemented annual water restrictions from May 1 to September 30. These restrictions allowed watering before 11:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. daily. Thank you for being good stewards of the environment and helping conserve this natural resource!



Lebanon Cemetery Columbaria's New Landscaping

Lebanon Cemetery was recently enhanced with the completion of landscape improvements at the columbaria. A columbarium is an above-ground structure designed for the specific purpose of interring cremated remains. Lebanon Cemetery has two columbaria and foundations for two future columbaria. The feature includes a concrete surface, retaining wall, small trees, shrubs, and perennials. The two foundations for future columbaria are being used as planters until installation of the columbaria.

The columbaria have single and double niches sized to contain one or two cremation urns. A bronze plaque adorned with a wreath emblem and embossed with the deceased's name and years of birth and death is placed on the front of the niche space.

Lebanon Cemetery of Apple Valley is a non-denominational cemetery located on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road and open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, 365 days a year. It is ten acres in size and is owned and operated by the City of Apple Valley. Lebanon Cemetery has proudly served the community since 1863.

For more information or to schedule an individual appointment to meet with a cemetery representative, please call (952) 953-2400.

City Information on Channel 16

Apple Valley Government Access Community Television features useful City information on the Channel 16 Bulletin Board as part of its regular program day. The Bulletin Board lists a variety of City Meeting Schedules and Agendas, Hotline Numbers and gateway information for City Services, special announcements and events, and daily program guides.

LIVE, TELEVISED MEETING COVERAGE

Apple Valley Government Access Channel 16 telecasts all of the City Council and Planning Commission meetings live. Meeting coverage is also replayed on a variety of days and times to provide more opportunities for citizen involvement in their local government.

The City Council meets at 8 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. In addition the meeting is replayed on Thursday & Saturday at 2 a.m., 11 a.m., & 8 p.m.

The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Wed of the month. Replays are on Wed at 2 a.m., 11 a.m., & 7 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meetings will periodically be cablecast and will be listed on the Channel 16 bulletin board program guide.

AV PROGRAMS ON CH. 16:

"Valley Beat" and "Hook & Ladder" share information about, give a look inside, and highlight the excellent work and members of the Police and Fire Departments in Apple Valley. Six new episodes of each program are produced annually.

VALLEY BEAT:

Sunday.....	8 a.m. & 8 p.m.
Monday.....	1 a.m.
Tuesday.....	8 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....	1 a.m.
Thursday.....	8 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Friday.....	1 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Saturday.....	8 a.m. & 7 p.m.

APPLE VALLEY HOOK & LADDER:

Sunday.....	8:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Monday.....	1:30 a.m.
Tuesday.....	8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....	1:30 a.m.
Thursday.....	8:30 a.m., & 7:30 p.m.
Friday.....	1:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday.....	8:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Programs and telecast times are also listed on the Channel 16 Bulletin Board Program Guide, and the City Web site at: www.cityofapplevalley.org.

Winter Lake Aeration Systems

Aeration systems will be operated this winter in Alimagnet and Farquar Lakes to prevent winter fish kill. Natural Resources staff will monitor dissolved oxygen in each lake beginning in December when ice thickness is safe for foot travel. Aeration systems are operated when lake dissolved oxygen levels decline to approximately 4-5 mg/l, and game fish begin to be stressed due to the low availability of oxygen. Game fish require higher oxygen levels than sunfish and bullheads, and are the first species to die off as oxygen levels decline. Lake water quality can be degraded when fish populations are dominated by bullheads and sunfish because their feeding habit re-suspends phosphorus into the water column resulting in large scale algal

blooms. Aeration systems usually are not necessary until mid to late-winter when oxygen levels become depleted.

Aeration systems operate on the concept of moving warm water from the bottom of the lake (around 39 degrees) to the surface (less than 32 degrees), creating a large area of open water. Oxygen exchange then takes place with the atmosphere at the water's surface.

Operation of an aeration system is regulated by the Minnesota DNR and requires an annual permit. Warning signs must be posted and maintained around the perimeter of the aerated area to alert lake users.

Congratulations to Energy Challenge Prize Winners

The last issue of the Apple Valley *City News* announced a contest for residents who pledged to reduce energy consumption in their homes. Any Apple Valley resident who visited the Minnesota Energy Challenge website during the month of August and took the challenge to save energy in their household was entered in a prize drawing. The contest was a collaboration between Dakota Valley Recycling—the shared recycling department of Eagan, Burnsville and Apple Valley—and the Center for Energy and Environment.

During the month of August, residents stepped up to the challenge and pledged to reduce the energy used in their homes through simple actions such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs and turning off the TV when they leave the room. The impact of these actions will save them \$4,700 collectively on their energy bills. These households are also reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the environment: an estimated 63,412 pounds of CO₂ will be avoided this year alone.



The grand prize winner of Dakota Valley Recycling's drawing was Apple Valley resident **Gail Dorsey**. Ms. Dorsey won a compost bin, furnished by Gopher Resource Corporation in Eagan. The bin is made from 100% recycled plastic and diverts food waste from landfills, instead making nutrient-rich compost right in your backyard. Gopher Resource Corporation sells compost bins at The Recycling Zone in Eagan for \$60. **Colleen Nornes** and **Becky Peitersen** of Apple Valley also received prizes for their participation in the energy challenge, each winning a high-efficiency compact fluorescent light bulb and a *Blue Sky Guide* coupon book.

Apple Valley currently ranks twenty-first in the state for number of households participating in the Energy Challenge. Join all 23,000 households in Minnesota in saving energy and money by going to the Minnesota Energy Challenge website: www.mnenergychallenge.org.

Street Light Maintenance

Is there a street light outage in your neighborhood? If so, contact Dakota Electric at (651) 463-6287. If possible, note the identification number found at eye level on the pole and relay it to Dakota Electric. With this number, Dakota Electric knows the exact location of the pole. If you do not know the pole number, please provide the closest address or cross streets. In addition to replacing burned out bulbs, Dakota Electric repairs broken globes and adjusts the sensitivity of the light sensors.

be. Apple Valley a Huge Success!

Residents rallied together to make the be. (better energy) residential program a huge success. Over 160 homeowners joined forces and attended recent workshops to learn techniques to save money and energy in their homes.

With the customized home visits underway, these homeowners are receiving a \$400 package for a co-pay of only \$20. This package includes two energy professionals from the Center for Energy and Environment spending an hour and half with the homeowner in their home. During this time they are performing a blower door test to measure air leaks in the home as well as installing energy and money saving materials. Some of these materials include compact fluorescent light bulbs, set back thermostats, low-flow showerheads, gasket seals, safety caps, pipe insulation and more.

With an increasing interest from Apple Valley homeowners in this program, a second round of workshop will be held:

Tuesday, April 6th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Hayes Community and Senior Center
(14603 Hayes Rd.)

OR

Saturday, April 10th, 10 a.m. – Noon

Falcon Ridge Middle School
(12900 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.)

be. (better energy) provides:

- FREE educational workshops;
- Customized home energy visits from qualified professionals;
- Personalized energy use inventory for the last 12 months and feedback;
- Information on financing, incentives and rebates for larger projects.

For more information contact Ashley Robertson at (612)335-5869 or arobertson@mncee.org.

Tips for Being Green at Home

Follow these helpful tips to help reduce your carbon footprint and leave a healthy planet for future generations.

- Make the most of natural sunlight by opening window coverings on south-facing windows to warm your home in the winter. Also, consider closing window coverings in rooms that receive no direct sunlight to insulate from cold winter drafts.
- Install an Energy Star® qualified programmable thermostat to save energy. By using programmed temperature settings (i.e. turning the temperature down during the day when at work), you can save \$100 each year while staying comfortable.
- Close the recycling loop by purchasing goods made from recycled products. Many articles of clothing such as jackets, scarves, gloves and boots are made from recycled materials. In addition, fleece is also often made from recycled plastic soda bottles.
- When getting rid of gently used goods to make room for new items, consider donating them to a charity instead of throwing them away.
- Winter in Minnesota does not provide a wide variety of local, seasonal produce. However, if you need to buy out-of-season produce, make organic a priority. Look for organic items that have traveled the fewest miles—you should be able to find the item's place of origin.
- When food shopping, look for items that have been minimally packaged and processed to cut down on packaging waste.

AV Fire Marshal recommends safe behaviors to avoid fires and injuries:

- When cooking, use back burners when possible. Turn pot handles in so they don't hang over the front of the stove where a child can grab or tip a pot. Try to keep children at least three feet away from all cooking appliances. And stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Keep cooking appliance cords away from counter edges to prevent children from pulling appliances off counter-tops and onto themselves. Unplug appliances when not using them.
- Children can be scalded in only a few seconds. Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (or below) and always test the water before putting your child into the bathtub. Treat a burn by running cool water over the area for three to five minutes.



Cover with a clean, dry cloth. If the burn is bigger than your fist, or if you have questions, get medical help right away.

- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach! Lighters are sometimes made to look like toys, enticing young children to "play" with them. Teach children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level and in every sleeping area of your home. Test them monthly and replace batteries when needed. Working smoke alarms provide early warning and allow you time to escape a fire.
- Install residential fire sprinkler systems. Fire sprinkler systems provide the ultimate in fire protection; they control or extinguish fires quickly; protecting your life and property. Installation is relatively inexpensive at around \$2 per square foot during construction.

Basketball Hoops vs. Snow Plow

The City Public Works Department needs your help to improve plowing operations. City snowplows are often hampered by basketball hoops that residents leave along the side of the street. Direct contact with basketball hoops damage plow trucks each winter. Damaged trucks may need to be pulled off their routes for repairs. This adds considerably to the time it takes to plow the City street system. The Public Works Department requests that all basketball hoops be moved back at least 13 feet from the street curb to allow snowplows to complete their routes on schedule. If you have any questions, please call (952) 953-2412.



Public Works Winter Operations

City streets are cleared of snow by Public Works crews. Usually all 171 miles of City streets and 328 cul-de-sacs are cleared within 10 to 12 hours after the snow stops falling.

PRIORITIES

Streets are prioritized for plowing:

1. Arterial and collector streets
2. Commercial streets
3. Residential streets
4. Cul-de-sacs and City parking lots
5. Downtown sidewalks

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Removing snow and ice is a time-consuming and dangerous job. To do it safely and efficiently, we need the cooperation and assistance of our residents. You can help by following these guidelines:

1. DO know and understand the City of Apple Valley Snow Emergency regulations.
2. DO drive carefully, even when streets look dry/salted.
3. DO have patience; plowing and salting take time.
4. DO leave 75 feet between your vehicle and a snow plow in front of you.
5. DON'T park your vehicle on the street after a snowfall of two inches or more until the street has been cleared curb to curb.
6. DON'T park your vehicle on the street any day between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., regardless of the weather. This restriction is in effect all year.
7. DON'T throw snow from your driveway onto the street or sidewalk. If you have a contractor plow, make sure they place the snow on your property.
8. DO wait, if possible, to clear your driveway until the street is plowed all the way to the curb. Sometimes plows need to make more than one pass during a snow event.
9. DO remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 48 hours after its accumulation.
10. DO remove snow from around a fire hydrant to save firefighters' time.



11. DO help keep our telephone lines open for urgent situations. Calls of a more routine nature should be held until after the snow emergency has passed. If you would like to know the status of current snow removal operations, you are encouraged to call the Public Works Hotline at (952) 953-2497.

COUNTY ROADS

If you encounter problems with County roads, you are advised to call the Dakota County Highway Department at 952-891-7900.

A list of County roadways within Apple Valley is provided below.

- County Road 23 (Cedar Avenue south of the zoo exit)
- County Road 42 (150th Street)
- County Road 46 (160th Street)
- County Road 31 (Pilot Knob Road)
- County Road 33 (Diamond Path)
- County Road 38 (McAndrews Road)
- County Road 11

PLEASE KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM SNOW PILES

Snow piles are very inviting for curious youngsters to explore and tunnel in, but can be very dangerous when the snowplow or loader is pushing snow. Snowplow operations can be in effect at any time during the winter as crews attempt to reclaim more of the road, so there really is no safe time to play in these snow piles. Please encourage children to use park facilities or backyards for their snow activities.

SOD DAMAGE

The City will repair/replace sod damaged by snowplows during snow removal operations if it is reported to the Public Works Department by June 1. The City will not repair/replace sod damaged due to the application of sand, salt, or other deicing chemicals.

MAILBOX DAMAGE

Mailboxes installed and maintained to Postal specifications which are damaged as a result of direct contact by City snow removal equipment will be temporarily repaired within 48 hours of receiving notification of such damage or a portable mailbox will be set in place so mail service will be continued. The City will replace the damaged mailbox structure the following spring with a standard No. 1 black, white, or silver mailbox mounted on a 4- by 4-inch treated post. Residents may request reimbursement of expenses up to \$75 for supplies to replace the mailbox structures themselves, relieving the City of any further obligation. In such cases, the City will provide portable, temporary mailboxes until the following spring.

Mailboxes that are not installed to City and Postal specifications or are damaged due to snow deposited from plows (versus being hit by City snow removal equipment) will not be replaced. The City is not responsible for damage to media or paper boxes and will not repair them.

OTHER DAMAGE

All other damage within the public right-of-way, which extends approximately 13 feet beyond the curb location, is the responsibility of the property owner including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, bushes, landscaping materials, decorative rock, and lawn/landscaping irrigation systems.

For the complete Snow and Ice Control Policy and Procedures, see the City web site, www.cityofapplevalley.org.



Prevent Water Pipe Freeze-Up

Each winter a number of Apple Valley residents experience water pipe freeze-ups. Some result in pipes bursting and damaging residences.

Here are suggestions to help prevent freeze-ups.

- Turn water supply off to outside hose bibs.
- Check heat tapes to ensure they are plugged in and working properly.
- Check the cold air intake for your furnace to ensure the cold air does not come into direct contact with the concrete floor, water meter, or pipes.
- When leaving on vacation, avoid turning your thermostat down as far as it will go. The temperature could fall too low in some areas of the home.
- Turn off the water supply line and water heater when going on extended vacations. You may also want to consider temporarily discontinuing your water service.
- If you have or are in the process of remodeling your home, make sure water pipes and the water meter are accessible and not isolated behind walls where they may be susceptible to freeze-up.

If you are aware of a vacant or fore-closed property in your neighborhood, please contact Public Works at (952) 953-2400 so we can investigate and determine if the water should be shut off to prevent water damage if the pipes freeze.

Water Service Questions Answered

Should I have the City turn off my water when I go out of town?

That depends on your preference. There is always a chance of a hose or pipe leaking in the house while you are gone. During winter months, pipes could freeze if water is not turned off.

Is there a charge to have the City turn the water off?

There is no charge to turn your water off. However, there is a \$25 charge to have water service restored. The fee will appear on the first billing received following your return.



What is involved in having the water service turned off by the City?

The City will turn your water on or off Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please note that property owners are required to sign a form relieving the City of any responsibility if a line was left open in the house or the service does not get turned off. The form can be picked up or mailed to you from the Billing Department or can be printed from the City website, www.cityofapplevalley.org. Please schedule with the Billing Department, (952) 953-2522, 24 hours in advance of required turn on/off.

How will I get my water bills when I am gone?

The City will send your bills to the address you currently have set up. If you set up a temporary forwarding at the post office, your water bills should automatically be forwarded on to you. If you prefer, you can call us to have bills mailed to a temporary address. Another option is the City's direct deduction program. Payment for your utility bill is automatically deducted out of your checking or savings account on the due date. Call the Billing Department at (952) 953-2522 to get an enrollment form or to change your mailing address.

Why do I receive letters about a problem with my meter every year while I am gone?

Public Works tracks water meters showing unusual usage patterns and sends letters when it appears the meter could be malfunctioning. No use of water is an unusual pattern. If you have your water turned off by the City, we know the reason for no usage. Otherwise, we do not and would rather send a letter and find nothing is wrong than to ignore a possible problem. If you do not have the City turn off your water when you are gone for an extended time and want to avoid receiving a letter, please notify Public Works at (952) 953-2400.

Water Conservation Tip:

Check your water system for leaks. Read your water meter at night after the day's water use has ended and again in the morning before any water is used. If the reading changed, check pipes, hoses, connections, faucets, and toilets for leaks. Have leaks repaired quickly.

Sewer & Water Emergencies

In the event of a sewer or water emergency, please use these numbers:
(952) 953-2400 (Public Works) - Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(952) 322-2323 - After hours, weekends and holidays

Make Your Home Winter Safe

Make sure your heating appliances are used correctly and working properly! Do you know the legal requirements for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors in the home? If you're not sure how to properly operate a heating appliance in your home, DON'T! Contact your local Fire Marshal or other professional to answer your questions and make sure that you and your family are using the heat source safely.

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

Portable space heaters can cause serious problems if they're not used properly. These heaters are not designed to heat an entire home or to run for extended periods; they are meant to heat a small space for a short time.

GAS AND KEROSENE SPACE HEATERS

The same guidelines should be used as with electric space heaters, but extra caution is needed as these products are doubly dangerous due to the added risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of the newer gas heaters are equipped with Oxygen Depletion Sensors (ODS) that detect reduced levels of oxygen and turn the devices off before hazardous CO accumulates. Kerosene heaters must be fueled only outdoors in well-ventilated areas, free of flames/heat. NEVER USE GASOLINE INSTEAD OF KEROSENE.

WOOD BURNING STOVES

Have your chimney checked for structural integrity and cleaned by a qualified chimney sweep before and during the heating season. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for the proper size heater and for installation, maintenance, and use. Have it professionally installed, if possible. Make sure any ashes are wet down and disposed of in metal containers. Always make sure the stove area is ventilated.

DETECT DANGERS IN YOUR HOME

The City of Apple Valley officially supports the State laws requiring Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms or detectors in residences. Every single-family home must have smoke and CO alarms that conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standards. Multi-family structures were required to comply by August of 2009.

There must be a smoke detector in each sleeping area and one on every floor.

CO detectors must be placed within 10 feet of any and all sleeping areas in a home.

- Test Smoke and CO detectors at least once a month. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Replace batteries two times a year. We recommend doing it at the beginning and end of Daylight Savings Time.
- REMEMBER! CO alarms do not function as smoke alarms, and smoke alarms do not function as CO alarms!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide gasses can build up in your home and could cause illness and even death. You can't smell Carbon Monoxide (CO), and there is no color to the gas.

THE CO DETECTOR ALARM IS GOING OFF. NOW WHAT?

Treat all activations as real. Evacuate everyone from your home immediately and leave the door open for ventilation on your way out.

Call 9-1-1 once you and your family are out of your house. Once dispatched, Apple Valley Fire Department can bring their gas monitors to check your home. If a problem area is found, make arrangements for the repair of any malfunctioning appliance.

BE FIRE SAFE OUTDOORS, TOO!

The City of Apple Valley has adopted the Minnesota State Fire Code for outdoor recreational fires. This ordinance is viewable at www.cityofapplevalley.org.

Recreational fires must be contained in an area no more than 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft and are completely surrounded by non-combustible and non-smoke or odor producing material. Free standing manufactured fire pits must be twenty-five (25) feet from any combustible structure and fifteen (15) feet from the property line.

If you have any other questions on how to keep Winter Safe, contact The Apple Valley Fire Department at (952) 953-2600.



Garden Workshops Coming in Spring

If you want to get a head start on planning your spring gardening projects and are concerned about the quality of local water resources, there are workshops just for you. Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be offering Blue Thumb™ workshops in conjunction with Dakota County cities and watershed management organizations during the winter and spring months. This is a unique opportunity to learn about gardening projects that beautify your yard and improve water quality of ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. (Blue Thumb™ is a partnership of entities committed to improving water quality by helping homeowners use native plants in their yards. To learn more, visit bluethumb.org).

The free An Introduction to Planting for Clean Water workshop will be hosted at the following locations on the listed dates from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hastings.....	February 25
Burnsville.....	March 3
Eagan.....	March 4
Lakeville.....	March 10
West St. Paul.....	Not scheduled yet
Farmington.....	March 30
Apple Valley.....	April 6

The introductory workshop is free and is a prerequisite for the more advanced design course Raingarden and Native Garden Design. Workshops include information on cost-share opportunities available to Dakota County residents. To register for classes, contact the Dakota County SWCD at (651) 480-7777.

Winter Tree Tips

Winter (late-Oct through March) is the preferred time for tree trimming since insects and diseases are dormant. It is the recommended period for trimming oak and elm trees since there is no risk of oak wilt and Dutch elm disease infection through pruning wounds. Here are some general trimming and pruning guidelines:

- Remove lower branches for ease of walking or mowing underneath.
- Remove all dead and broken branches, branches growing towards the center of the tree, rubbing branches, and branches growing out of the tree's natural shape.
- Prune trees to maintain one central dominant leader, and remove only branches that need to be removed.
- Young trees require and can tolerate more frequent pruning. As trees get older and become mature, live branches should be removed only when necessary, and pruning should focus on removing dead branches.
- Make pruning cuts next to a branch collar or bud; don't leave branch stubs.
- There is no need to use pruning paint or other sealants on pruning cuts except on oak and elm trees during the growing season to seal out disease (oak wilt or Dutch elm). Pruning cuts will heal faster when paint is not used.
- Wrap trunks of newly planted and thin-barked tree species in the fall to prevent winter sun scald. Tree trunks should be wrapped up to the first branch or at least five to six feet above ground. Light colored tree wrap works best to reflect the sun's heat off the tree trunk. Remove tree wrap in spring.

If you wish to have your trees trimmed by a professional tree contractor, the Natural Resources Division can provide you with a list of those currently licensed. The City Code of Ordinances requires tree workers to be licensed for all tree work performed in the City of Apple Valley (§152.43). If you have any questions call the Natural Resources Division at 952-953-2461.

Tis Almost the Season

What to do with your Christmas tree after the holidays

Believe it or not, the holidays are just around the corner and Christmas trees can be an essential part of the holiday tradition. When the season's good tidings and cheer with family and friends comes to an end, and it's time to pack up the decorations, what do you do with the Christmas tree? It is illegal in Minnesota to dispose of trees in the garbage, but residents in Apple Valley have several options for proper tree disposal.

1) Residents can talk to their garbage hauler about a pick-up for the tree.



Most haulers provide the option to pick up trees, but some have a small fee and a limited window of time that they offer the service. Haulers take the trees to a facility where they are composted with yard waste.

Phone numbers for garbage haulers can be found on the Web

at www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org, click on "Resident", scroll down and click on "Who is licensed to haul garbage in my community?"

2) Residents can take their tree to a compost facility.

The Mulch Store in Rosemount is open year-round and will accept Christmas trees to be dropped off for a fee. Call for more information at (651) 423-4401.

An additional Mulch Store location in Shakopee will be open for a short period of time after Christmas as well. For information on that location's schedule and fees, call (952) 445-2139.

3) Residents can chop up their tree and add to a backyard compost pile.

NOTE: Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove; these are not designed to take the high heat that Christmas trees put out when burned. Burning them inside may cause fires that damage the fireplace flue and glass doors and potentially get out of control.



City & Area Maps Available Online

The City of Apple Valley website (www.cityofapplevalley.org) contains helpful maps including:

- City Street Map
- Downtown Apple Valley Map
- Bike and Walking Trails
- Athletic Fields
- Transit System
- Land Use
- Links to Dakota County Maps