

SOUTH ST. PAUL CITY HALL  
125 3rd Avenue North  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (M-F)  
www.southstpaul.org

MAYOR  
Beth A. Baumann

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
William Flatley, Lori Hansen,  
Dan Niederkorn, Todd Podgorski  
Marilyn Rothecker, Tom Seaberg

CITY HALL 651-554-3200

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
911 OR 651.554.3300

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
911 OR 651.554.3250

CITY OF  
SOUTH ST. PAUL



# SSP City News

OCTOBER—DECEMBER, 2016

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

what's happening in

# South St. Paul

## An update of City News and Community Events

What's inside?

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## Employee Spotlight

### *Introducing employees hired in 2016*



On January 1, 2016, employees of the former Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) were absorbed into the City's organizational structure. These employees now work in the City's Community Development Department, which includes the management of the public high rise apartment complexes.

*Employees left to right: Chet DeSchane, Mindy Ostrow-Price, Jeannine Vance, Edie Kleinboehl, William Brink, and Deb Breitenfeldt*



In 2016, employees joined the City's organization through the addition of new job positions, staff retirements and/or departures.

*Employees left to right: Seth Anderson—Woog Arena, Ryan Garcia—Economic Development, Branna Lindell—Housing Division, Chris Hartzell—City Engineer, Tom Madigan—Engineering Tech.*

*Not pictured: Brianna Rosburg—Police Office Manager and Megan Chu—Community Service Officer*

## The City hires an Economic Development Manager

Ryan Garcia began his new job as South St. Paul's Economic Development Division Manager on August 1, and is enjoying the opportunity to work with a great team, both at City Hall and throughout the community, to support and strengthen South St. Paul as a premiere location to operate a business, settle into a high-quality home and neighborhood, and enjoy an excellent quality of life. Ryan joined the management team after working for two years in regional planning out of St. Paul. Prior to that, Ryan spent the first 10 years of his career split between private sector and public sector economic and community development in the Madison, Wisconsin area.

As South St. Paul's first Economic Development Manager, Ryan's earliest priorities include extensive outreach and introduction to many of the City's businesses, collaborating with the River Heights Chamber/Progress Plus to strengthen and enhance the resources made available to local businesses, and establishing a well-defined City Economic Development program and policy foundation. At the same time, Ryan is busy cultivating interest in new business and development projects throughout the City and assuring timely attention and responsiveness to inquiries and requests as they come in. If you or anyone you know has a business or development question, idea, or dream, please give Ryan a call at 651-554-3278, or send him an e-mail at [rgarcia@sppmn.org](mailto:rgarcia@sppmn.org).



## Farewell Message from Mayor Beth Baumann

*"It's been my pleasure to help make South St. Paul a great place to live, work and play!"*



Since this is the last City Newsletter before my term ends I wanted to write you one last time. It's been 16 years (14 as mayor) in office, approximately 360 Council meetings, 330 Worksessions, 16 Kaposia Days, 16 On the Road Again, countless church festivals, community meetings, school events, Progress Plus meetings, State and County Task Forces, etc...WHEW! It has been my pleasure to serve as your mayor these past 14 years and I appreciate all of your support, your feedback, and your involvement in our community. South St. Paul is a unique community with some of the best citizens, businesses, schools in the state.

Our community has changed over the last 14 years, and I believe we have changed in a positive way. We are more diverse in both our population and our businesses. Our partnerships with the School District and Dakota County have grown to serve our children and our seniors more effectively. We partnered with other communities to create a state-of-the art 911 center and a merged fire department to keep our community safer. We've redeveloped our vacant land down along the river and are working to do the same on the hill to broaden our tax base. We started the Mayor's Youth Task Force to build youth leadership and to find things to do in South St. Paul.

I want to thank the people that helped make all of the positive changes possible, especially:

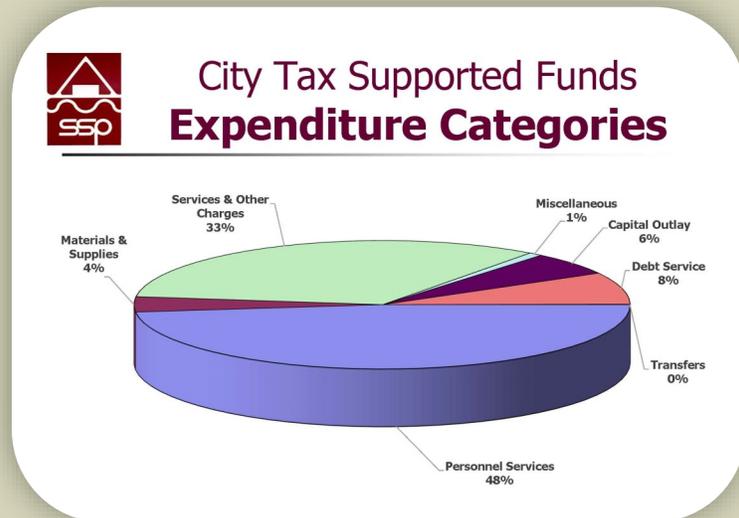
- Out great City staff, led by Steve King who have weathered the ups and downs of eliminated LGA, deep economic recession and the whims of the Council;
- Members of the City Council throughout my tenure—you know who you are!
- City Boards and Commission Members who volunteer their time so the Council can make decisions efficiently;
- The SSP business community, which has not only survived, but started to grow and thrive since the economy improved;
- Special School District #6 Superintendent Dave Webb, the District Staff and the SSP School Board for their partnership and forward thinking to solve problems and provide better support for the leaders of tomorrow;
- River Heights Chamber of Commerce and Progress Plus for their partnership with us and our business community and their assistance with economic development;
- The amazing kids, parents and coordinator of the Mayor's Youth Task Force who have stepped up to lead fun events and volunteer efforts and find things to do for the youth in our community;
- My partners in the South Metro Fire Department Board, the Dakota Communication Center and other joint ventures who have proved that together we can achieve more and be more efficient while providing quality service to our communities;
- Finally, the great community members of South St. Paul who make me proud to be your mayor!

## 2017 Budget Outlook

The City Council adopted a preliminary budget and tax levy (also known as the not-to-exceed levy) on September 6. Further budget discussions will occur at Council Worksessions in October. The final budget hearing and potential adoption of the 2017 budget and levy will occur at the December 5th City Council meeting. The City Council will hear public comment at the budget hearing on December 5th, and also encourages residents to ask questions and/or submit comments on the budget prior to the meeting.

The 2017 budget has an overall increase of \$775,543 or 4.4% across levy supported funds which include the General Fund, Library, Doug Woog Arena, Capital Program and Debt Service. To support the increased investment required to maintain the level of services the City provides to residents and businesses the budget proposes raising the property tax levy by 7.51% for operations and .18% for debt service.

Details on the City's Preliminary 2017 Budget, including the City Administrator's budget message, can be found on the City's website [www.southstpaul.org](http://www.southstpaul.org). For budget related questions or comments, contact the Finance Director at 651-554-3206.



**Phone System Upgrade Results In Some New Phone Numbers**

The City of South St. Paul recently replaced its outdated phone system. The new phone system provides for enhanced technology features, such as receiving voicemails over email, easier access to voicemail boxes from remote locations and better phone compatibility between city buildings.

Most department phone numbers have remained the same, however, some numbers have changed. The major change involves the Parks & Recreation Department, which received all new phone numbers. Below is a listing of the main contact numbers for City Departments:

Central Administration .....	651-554-3200
City Clerk / Licensing .....	651-554-3260
Code Enforcement .....	651-554-3260
Community Development .	651-554-3270
Engineering .....	651-554-3210
Fire (non-emergency) .....	651-552-4176
Library .....	651-554-3240
Parks & Recreation .....	651-366-6200
Police (non-emergency) ....	651-554-3300
Public Works .....	651-554-3225
Doug Woog Ice Arena .....	651-554-3330

**Community Events**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming community events:

- **Halloween Skate**  
October 23 from 4:40-6:00 PM  
Doug Woog Arena (141 6th St. S.)
- **The Great Halloween Get Together**  
Monday, October 31 from 5:00-7:00 PM  
along Marie Avenue
- **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
November 27 from 4:30-6:00 PM  
Marie Avenue (between 6th & 7th Ave. N.)
- **Breakfast with Santa**  
December 10 from 9:00-11:00 AM  
Lincoln Center Elementary (357 9th Ave. N.)
- **Skate with Santa**  
December 18 from 4:40-6:00 PM  
Doug Woog Arena (141 6th St. S.)

For more information on these events, visit the City's Calendar at [www.southstpaul.org](http://www.southstpaul.org).

**Parks Referendum Update:**

*McMorrow Field renovation begins, New fields at Kaposia Landing opening spring 2017*

The passage of the February 11, 2014 Park Referendum has provided for improvements to Doug Woog Arena, the development of Kaposia Landing, and the renovation of McMorrow Field.

The conversion of **McMorrow Field**, into flat athletic fields for soccer, football, lacrosse and other field sports has begun. The majority of work to be completed this fall will be excavation of the site, importing of fill, grading, and the installation of utilities. The site has been designed to accommodate four full-sized athletic fields with the two central fields having lights. Additional work to be completed in spring of 2017 will result in paved trails that will connect the perimeter of the park to the interior, more than doubling the trails that currently exist, installation of a new picnic shelter and playground structure, and redesigned parking areas that will improve access and storm water control. The final touch will be landscaping and the planting of 120 additional trees across the entire park area. After construction is completed the complex will open for field use contingent upon grass turf establishment, projected for mid to late 2018.

New construction at **Kaposia Landing** is 95% complete. The new fields will remain closed throughout 2016 in order to ready the new complex for use spring 2017.

When open next spring, the new amenities at Kaposia Landing will add to the park system:

- Four softball/baseball fields each offering three options for base and pitching configurations, 310' fences, sheltered players bench areas, electronic scoreboards, and lights;
- One full-sized baseball field with a permanent pitching mound, turf infield, 380' center field, dugouts, batting cages, bullpens, electronic scoreboard, and lights;
- Concession, restroom, and storage building;
- Additional paved parking area with 209 stalls; and
- Expanded internal trail system.

Questions regarding the park projects and Kaposia Landing field scheduling for 2017, can be directed to the Parks and Recreation Department at 651-366-6200.

*Three community parks improved by the removal and reuse of former McMorrow Field equipment.*

As part of the McMorrow Field renovation, a new play structure and picnic shelter will be installed that better fit the reconfiguration of the site. Before demolition of the site commenced, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission recommended the relocation of the existing picnic shelter and portions of the play structure to other parks within the City. In August, the McMorrow picnic shelter was relocated to Lorraine Park, and in September the pipe/deck/slide and track-ride portion of the play structure was relocated to Spruce Park. The swings will be relocated to Northview Park later this fall.



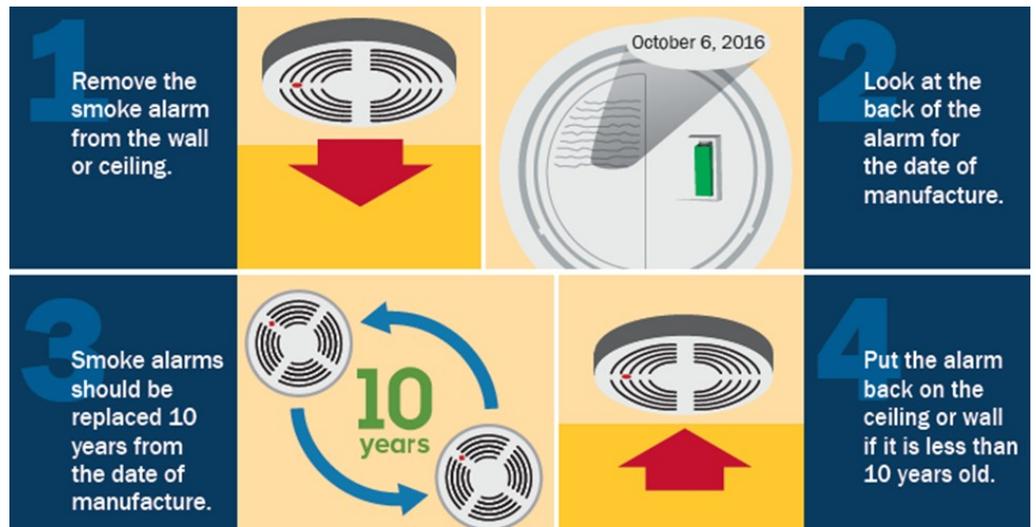
**Don't Wait —  
Check the Date!**  
Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Over the last 10 years, how many things have you replaced in your home? Have you replaced your smoke alarms in that time? Just like any other electronic device, your smoke alarm is not designed to last forever. South Metro Fire Department's Fire Marshal Linda McMillan reminds residents

to replace their smoke alarms every 10 years. "Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month and batteries should be replaced at least twice a year. In addition, your smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.", reminds McMillan. According to the National Fire Protection Association, from 2009-2013, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (53%) of the home fires reported in the United States, and 21% of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms. The death rate was more than twice as

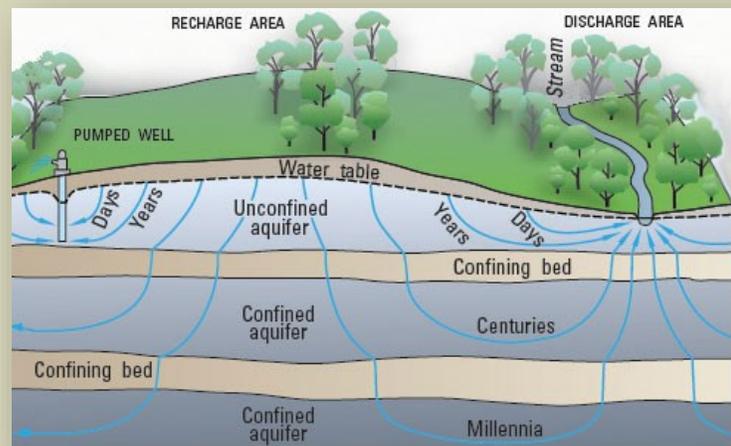
high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to homes with working smoke alarms. McMillan added, "Having an operable smoke detector is paramount to occupant survival." The results of a recent NFPA survey revealed that many people do not know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they need to be replaced. Not only should you do a monthly check of the battery, but you should also check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms. If it is 10 years old or older, the alarm should be replaced with a new one.



**There's Water Underground**

When you hear the term "groundwater," what do you think? Perhaps you picture an underground lake in a cavern somewhere or possibly a subterranean river. Maybe you think of that glass of water you knocked over last week – if the water's on the ground, it must be ground water!

Here in South St. Paul, 100% of the water we drink comes from groundwater. When it rains, water soaks into the ground and continues to percolate downward until it reaches the water table. We are able to drink groundwater because it is clean and relatively plentiful. Most pollutants are filtered out of rainwater as it percolates into the ground, and once ground water is contained within an aquifer, it is protected from bacteria and other organic pollutants.



The biggest threat to groundwater supplies in our area is simply overuse. When we are careless with the amount of water we use, we can draw down groundwater supplies, requiring cities and homeowners to drill new wells. We can keep our groundwater clean by doing many of the same things that keep our lakes and rivers clean. During the winter, limit your use of salt and de-icers and dispose of hazardous waste such as used motor oil, fluorescent light bulbs and propane tanks at the county hazardous waste facility.

Though we may not be able to see it, we are all dependent on groundwater, and by making smart decisions around our home, we can all play a part in protecting it.



## General Election—Tuesday, November 8, 2016

**Are you registered to vote?** The 2016 Election is expected to produce record numbers of voters nationwide, and South St. Paul is no exception. South St. Paul currently has over 11,000 registered voters and there are sure to be many of you not registered to vote. High voter turnout can result in longer lines at the polls but you, as a resident, can help eliminate some of this by making sure you are registered ahead of time. If you have not registered to vote, voter registration applications are available at:

- South St. Paul City Hall
- South St. Paul Website at [www.southstpaul.org](http://www.southstpaul.org)
- State and County Offices
- Secretary of State's Office Website at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)
- Public Libraries
- Driver's License Renewal Locations

*To be registered to vote in the State General Election on November 8th, pre-registration is open until October 18th.*

Your registration remains current until you move, change your name, or do not vote for 4 consecutive years. Pre-registration saves time for everyone on Election Day. It also makes the job Election Judges do a little easier.

If you do not pre-register, Minnesota does allow registration on Election Day. Details on Election Day registration can be found on page 7.

**Where Do I Vote?** Polling places have not changed since the last election. If you are unsure where you vote, you may find your polling location, as well as a sample ballot, on the Secretary of State's Office website at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or contact the Elections Office at (651) 554-3266.

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### ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Any resident may vote by an absentee ballot. Absentee voting is voting by mail or in person. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election.

#### Absentee Ballot Applications may be Obtained by:

- Contacting the Election Office at (651) 554-3266
- South St. Paul City Hall, 125 3rd Avenue North
- South St. Paul Website at [www.southstpaul.org](http://www.southstpaul.org)
- Dakota County Website at [www.dakota.mn.us](http://www.dakota.mn.us)

#### Dates When Absentee Ballots are Available:

- General Election Absentee Balloting Opens Friday, September 23, 2016

#### Absentee Ballot Voting Hours:

- South St. Paul City Hall will be open to accept absentee ballot applications and vote by absentee ballot during normal working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- **Extended hours** for absentee voting on the Saturday and Monday before the **General Election**:  
Saturday, November 5th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Monday, November 7th until 5:00 pm



**Your ballot will not count if it is received after Election Day**

For questions regarding the General Election, not covered in this issue of the City Newsletter, contact Christy Wilcox, City Clerk, at 651-554-3204 or [cwilcox@sspmn.org](mailto:cwilcox@sspmn.org) or Shirley Johnson, Deputy City Clerk, at 651-554-3239 or [sjohnson@sspmn.org](mailto:sjohnson@sspmn.org).

## Election Information

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

You may register and vote in Minnesota if you are:

- At least 18 years on Election Day
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence

You are **NOT** eligible to vote in Minnesota if you are:

- A convicted felon whose civil rights have not been restored
- Under the guardianship of another person
- Found by a court of law to be legally incompetent



### REGISTERING TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

To register at your polling place on Election Day, you will need to bring one proof of residence listed below:

#### 1. ID with Current Name and Address

- Valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID, or a receipt for any of these
- Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signature

#### 2. Photo ID and a Document with Current Name and Address

Approved photo IDs (choose one)

*The ID can be expired*

- Driver's license, state ID or learner's permit issued by any state
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Military or Veteran ID
- Tribal ID with name, signature and photo
- Minnesota university, college or technical college ID
- Minnesota high school ID

Approved documents (choose one)

*Can be shown on electronic device*

- Bill, account or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for:
  - Phone, TV or internet
  - Solid waste, sewer, electric, gas or water
  - Banking or credit card
  - Rent or mortgage
- Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Election Day
- Current student fee statement

#### 3. Registered Voter Who Can Confirm Your Address

A registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming your address. This is known as "vouching." A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters. You cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for you.

#### 4. Valid Registration in the Same Precinct

If you are registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, you only need to tell the Election Judge your previous name or address.

#### 5. Notice of Late Registration

If you registered to vote within 20 days of the election, you may get a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. Bring it with you and use it as your proof of residence to register.

## 2016 Candidates for Local Offices

### CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR (1 OPEN SEAT):

Jimmy Francis  
Tom Q. Seaberg

### CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL (3 OPEN SEATS):

Steven Budke      Bill Flatley      Lori Hansen  
Warren Claflin      Joe Forester      Max Wallin

### CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD (3 OPEN SEATS):

Patricia M. Bjorklund      Heidi Satre  
Joseph Gullerud      Kathy Shank Delsing  
Nikki A. Laliberte      Janet White  
Jeff McClellan      Sarah Winslow Brewer



## Mechanical Needs/Space Study at Library

The library is considering the future needs of the community and wants your input! The library's original structure is nearly 100 years old, having been built in 1927. An addition was completed in 1964, with minor remodeling in 1996 and 1999.

The City hired LSE Architects, Inc., of Minneapolis to conduct a mechanical needs assessment and a space study of the current layout of the library in terms of the ability to meet the community's changing needs and expectations. Your input is valued. Surveys are available at the library and online at [www.southstpaul.org/library](http://www.southstpaul.org/library).

## Compost Site Fall Hours

Friday—9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday—9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Sunday—1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Monday—9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The Compost Site is scheduled to close on November 14, 2016

# City Meeting Calendar

## CITY COUNCIL

City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:15 PM at City Hall. In the event of a holiday, the meeting is moved to Tuesday.

Meeting dates are: October 3 & 17, November 7 & 21, and December 5 & 19

Mayor/Council Worksession meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at City Hall. In the event of a holiday, the meeting is moved to Tuesday.

Meeting dates are: October 10 & 24, November 14 & 28, and December 12 & 27

*(The Economic Development Authority meets at 6:30 PM, preceding the Council Worksession meeting)*

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Airport Advisory Commission meets at 6:00 PM at Fleming Field Airport on:  
Tuesday—November 9

Central Square Advisory Board meets at 6:00 PM at Central Square Community Center on:  
Thursday—November 17

Civil Service Commission meets at 10:00 AM at City Hall on:  
Monday—October 3, November 7, and December 5

Economic Development Advisory Board meets at 8:00 AM at City Hall on:  
Tuesday—October 18, November 15, and December 20

Library Board meets at 7:00 PM at Library on:  
Monday—October 10, November 14, and December 12

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meets at 6:00 PM at Central Square Community Center on:  
Tuesday—October 11 and December 13

Planning Commission meets at 7:00 PM at City Hall on:  
Wednesday—October 5, November 2, and December 7

SMFD Board of Directors meets at 4:30 PM at City Hall:  
Wednesday—October 19, November 16, and December 21

City of South St. Paul

125 3RD AVENUE NORTH  
SOUTH ST. PAUL, MN 55075



South St. Paul: A great place to live, work and play.

*This newsletter is published quarterly and is mailed, one copy per residence, to all residential and postal customers in the City of South St. Paul.*

### WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

*If you have any comments, give us a call at (651) 554-3284.*

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beth A. Baumann, Mayor	651-451-7588
William Flatley	651-554-3284
Lori Hansen	651-450-6729
Dan Niederkorn	651-459-2091
Todd Podgorski	651-554-3284
Marilyn Rothecker	651-451-6007
Tom Seaberg	651-999-9784

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Stephen P. King	651-554-3202
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