

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—1/6/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

New Councilmembers Sworn In / Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Krista Wolter, Councilmembers Mark Azman and John Shuman were official sworn in to office on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023. We welcome all three of them to the City Council.

The City Council will hold a special meeting on Monday January 9th at 5 p.m. View the special meeting notice and agenda [HERE](#). There will be a closed session with the City Attorney on Thursday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m., with the regular meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. The Agenda packet and links to view meetings can be found on the respective meeting entries on the [City Calendar](#) 72 hours prior to each meeting.

2023 Recycling Calendar Published

During the year 2023, the ONLY shifts in recycling will take place 4th of July and Thanksgiving weeks. When in doubt, click on the recycling calendar on the lower part of the [City website homepage](#).

Snow Removal Reminders

As the snow begins to pile up, it gets harder to find places to put it. Just a reminder that all private snowplow contractors must keep snow on your own property. It is against City ordinance to push snow into the street or onto adjacent neighbor's properties.

Snow plowing of all North Oaks private roads is completed by Mel's services under the direction of the North Oaks Homeowner Association. Thank you to Mel's drivers for a long snowy week of work!

For the safety of both residents and the plow trucks:

- please slow down and yield to the large plow trucks coming through our narrow roads
- make sure trash and recycling cans are IN your driveway on pick up day (not in the street)
- help by shoveling the around your mailbox to maintain access, and reduce chance of snow being pushed by plows accidentally taking it out (this may have to be repeated as roads are plowed).
- residents must shovel the base of their own driveway entrances after streets are plowed, Mel's can't shovel out driveways for 2,300 + homes in our community.

Any questions on snow plowing within our community should be directed to NOHOA at 651-792-7765 or nohoa@nohoa.org. If you have a fire hydrant in your yard, please help out Lake Johanna Fire Department by shoveling around the fire hydrant to keep it accessible in case of emergency. Here's to getting through our Minnesota winters!

COMMUNITY

Candlelight Events at Minnesota State Parks

Candlelight events are a whole new way to enjoy the beauty of Minnesota's state parks. The Department of Natural Resources has a resource for how and where you can experience these enchanting events: [Candlelight events | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Free Indoor Ice Skating for Ramey County residents

Ramsey County is offering free indoor ice skating at several locations. This includes the TCO Sports Garden in Vadnais Heights, with Skate Rental available for a fee. Refer [HERE](#) for complete details of locations, hours, and skate rental.

Live Christmas Tree Disposal

Winding down from Christmas and need to dispose of your live tree? Boy Scouts from Troop 639 are collecting Christmas trees curbside in North Oaks on January 7th, 14th, and 21st as a fundraiser. If you would like to sign up, use this website to reserve your pick-up day: <https://troop639-treepickup.company.site>. A \$25 donation per tree is recommended.

These donations will allow scouts to pay for campouts, hikes, summer camp, and other activities that help kids get active in the outdoors. Thank you for supporting our local scouts!

SAFETY

Keep Your Personal Information Safe in 2023

From the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain News:

Scammers and hackers are always looking for new ways to [steal your personal information online](#). Make your Resolution List complete by adding "update my security software" and "[protect my personal information](#)" to the mix. Here are some steps you can take to help protect yourself and your information:

- **Keep your security software, internet browser, and operating system up to date.** Updating your software regularly helps make sure you have critical patches and protections against security threats.
- **Create and use strong passwords.** Making a password longer — 12 characters or more — is one of the easiest ways to increase its strength. Consider using a passphrase of random words so that your password is more memorable but avoid using common words or phrases. Check out this [password checklist](#), and don't use the same password for different accounts.
- **Use multi-factor authentication.** Some accounts offer extra security by requiring two or more credentials to log in. You may have to give both a password and a passcode you get from an authentication app to log into your account. Multi-factor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log in to your accounts even if they manage to steal your username and password.
- **Back up your data to protect it.** Keep an extra copy of all your files with a secure cloud storage service or save your files to an external storage device. That way, if something happens — say a virus, your device crashes, or you're hacked — you still have your files.
- **Protect your home network.** Your devices, accounts, and whole network are only as secure as your router since it's the connecting point between your devices and the internet. Check out how to [make your router more secure](#).

Also, remember to report fraud, scams, or bad business practices to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

North Oaks Recreational Facilities

Just a reminder that ice rinks and other recreational facilities are owned and managed by the North Oaks Homeowners Association (not the City). Contact NOHOA directly at 651-792-7765 or via their website nohoa@nohoa.org with any questions or with reservation requests. The warming house is scheduled to open on January 3rd, and the lights turn off at 9 p.m. each evening.

Ice Safety

When kids are off of school, it's natural for them to want to be outside, and water and ice tends to be a natural draw. Please remind children of these dangers and to keep off the North Oaks Lakes. Many of the lakes, including but not limited to Charley Lake, Pleasant Lake, and Lake Gilfillan, have running water/aeration that makes ice thickness very unpredictable.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that lakes and ponds throughout the state have started to freeze – and where ice hasn't completely formed, the water is dangerously cold. It's up to everyone to choose to stay safe around the water or ice. Where there is ice, its thickness this time of year is highly variable and subject to the whims of Mother Nature. And where ice hasn't formed – or where it freezes at night and opens during the day – the water temperature is so low that an unexpected fall in can be deadly. As the winter season continues, it's vital that parents talk with their kids about staying safe. Visit the [DNR website](#) for more information on ice safety.

Celebrate Safely, Minnesota!

From MN Department of Health news bulletin

Many of us will be gathering with family and friends during the holidays. With many respiratory diseases spreading right now, including flu, RSV, and COVID-19, it is important to take steps to help everyone celebrate safer!

Here are some things you can do:

- Make sure you and your family are up to date on your [COVID-19 vaccines](#) and have received your annual flu vaccine. You can get both vaccines at the same visit.
 - Find COVID-19 and flu vaccine locations near you at [Vaccines.gov](#). Many locations, such as pharmacies, may have both vaccines, so you can ask about getting both shots at the same time.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick. No one wants to miss out on the celebration, but it is important to stay home so others do not get sick.
- Wash your hands often.
- Check the [CDC COVID-19 community level by county](#) before you go so you can follow appropriate public health recommendations, such as when to wear a mask. You can also wear a mask at any time, no matter what the community level is.
- Consider [COVID-19 testing](#) before gathering, particularly if there will be people there who are at higher risk for severe disease.

Learn more at [Protect Yourself and Others: COVID-19](#) and [Influenza](#).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Natural Resources Commission** - TBD
- **Special City Council Meeting** – Monday, January 9th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, January 12, 2023. Closed session at 6:00 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, Phone: 651-792-7750

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—1/13/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Office Closure – Monday, January 16th

City Hall will be closed Monday, January 16th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Happy MLK Day, North Oaks!

Highlights from the City Council Meeting on Thursday, January 12th

- City Council met in closed session prior to the regular City Council meeting to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken.
- Council approved polling places for the 2023 School Board Election. The polling place for the August 8th Primary will be at the North Oaks Council Chambers – 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. The polling place for the November General Election will be the North Oaks Golf Club – 54 East Oaks Road.
- Council approved a resolution in support of the Ramsey County Interstate 35E/County Road J Corridors of Commerce Grant application. This is a project that will improve interstate access, bicycle and pedestrian mobility and overall congestion and safety for transportation users while also creating new economic development opportunities for the immediate project area.
- Deputy Matt Lassegard gave a report to Council on calls for service in the City over the past five years. There were 1,574 calls for service in 2022, with the top reasons being medical assists, traffic stops and alarms sounding. Deputy Lassegard encouraged residents to continue to call for service if they see issues or unusual activity in the neighborhood. He recommended larger “No Trespassing” signs at the Hwy 96 entrance and Wildflower entrance.
- Council approved an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 110 Tobacco regulations. This amendment brings the ordinance up to date with state regulations.
- Council approved an ordinance adopting the 2023 Fee Schedule for the City. The fee schedule will be available on the City website [HERE](#):
- Council approved the appointment of new Planning Commission Members: David Cremons, Stig Hauge and Grover Sayer, as well as the appointment of Dave Cremons as the new Planning Commission Chair. Council also made appointments for the Mayor and Council members setting 2023 Appointments/City Responsibilities.
- Council approved Mayor Wolter and Administrator Kress to negotiate with the law firm Levander, Gillen & Miller to appoint Bridget Nason as the City Attorney.
- Council is planning a strategy session for January 28th to work on setting their goals and strategy for the year. Councilor Shah encouraged residents to reach out to her with any thoughts or suggestions for the direction they would like Council to take.
- Councilor Shuman has been working on a Neighborhood Watch program for North Oaks. He is working on an article for the February edition of North Oaks News that will outline how the program will work. An informational meeting is scheduled for Monday March 6th at 7 p.m. with Randy Gustafson and his team from the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office.
- Mayor Wolter noted that the City will be working with NOHOA over the coming months to better articulate City and NOHOA responsibilities, with the goal of providing more clarity to the community.

The full City Council meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

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Winter Storms Can Strand Motorists – Be Prepared

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend

Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is Saturday, January 14 through Monday, January 15th. During the three-day weekend, any Minnesota resident can go ice fishing for free if fishing with a child 15 years old or younger. Minnesotans 15 years old or younger don't need fishing licenses any time of the year.

Although fishing is not allowed in North Oaks Lakes, the DNR has a page with information on where to fish for free in Minnesota state parks: [Ice fishing | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Also check out the DNR's [learn to ice fish page](#) (mndnr.gov/GoFishing/Learn-Ice-Fish.html) for more information about ice fishing, including a recorded webinar with tips and techniques anglers can use to have fun catching sunfish, crappie and perch.

Ice conditions vary and there is no such thing as 100% safe ice. Always check local ice conditions before heading out to a lake or river. Visit the [DNR ice safety page](#) (mndnr.gov/IceSafety) for ice safety guidelines.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—1/27/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Council Strategy Session - Saturday

There will be a special meeting of the City Council on Saturday, January 28th at 10:00 a.m. at the North Oaks Golf Club. The purpose of this City Council Strategy session is to discuss pending and future City matters; including budget and funding sources, utility related matters such as future utility connections and extension, roads and safety, environmental matters including; garbage haulers and recycling, water, sewer, security/policing, technology and communication, internet, cable, electrical, solar, City Council priority setting, and discussion of related City matters.

The Mayor and the members of the North Oaks City Council specifically invite any member of the public to enter into the City of North Oaks to proceed to and from and attend this special meeting.

Refer [HERE](#) for the meeting notice and zoom logon information. The meeting will be recorded for future viewing and highlights published in Minutes.

NRC /NEST Joint Presentation – Save the Date

There will be a joint presentation to the Natural Resources Commission and NOHOA NEST committee on Monday, February 13th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room. The purpose is for the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management organization (VLAWMO) to present the current status and upcoming timeline for work being done on the Wilkinson Lake improvement project.

Residents are welcome to attend or listen in. Logon information can be found on the [City website](#).

RAVE Demonstration

There will be a vendor demonstration of an emergency communication system on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. A quorum of council may be in attendance and the public is welcome to attend. This is for evaluation purposes only. This is not a formal meeting and no motions will be made for acceptance.

Planning Commission Meeting

There was no Planning Commission meeting last night due to lack of business. The next meeting is Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY

Winter Carnival Weekend Activities

Looks for activities to do this weekend? It's the annual St. Paul Winter Carnival celebration! Click [Signature Events - Saint Paul Winter Carnival](#) for complete details on where to watch the Grand Day Kick off Parade or Vulcan Victory Torchlight parade, puzzle contest, medallion hunt, scavenger hunts, Vulcan snow park sculptures, ice fishing and curling bonspiel tournaments, and more family friendly activities.

Last week to Recycle Holiday Lights

This is the last week to bring to City Hall your holiday lights that are no longer working and need to be disposed. LED holiday lights cannot go in the trash because they contain printed circuit boards and are considered hazardous. There is a drop box located in the lobby of the City of North Oaks.

Drop them by the office during City Hall office hours 9:00 am -4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, or 9 – Noon on Friday’s. The City will dispose of them with Recycling Technologies. For an easy to search guide on how to recycle other items, visit Ramsey County recycling website: [A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide | Ramsey County](#).

SAFETY

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Save the date for a North Oaks Neighborhood Watch informational session being held in the Community Room at City Hall on Monday, March 6th, 2023. More details will be made available as get closer to the date.

Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office Public Safety Resources

The Sheriff’s Office provides many public safety resources for residents. To view accident and incident reports, learn about crime prevention, report crime tips, learn how to get involved in community safety efforts and more, visit [Public Safety Resources | Ramsey County](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

MN DNR Looking for Summer Interns

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is looking for passionate and dedicated students interested in learning more about natural resource careers through paid summer internships. DNR summer interns gain valuable training, build meaningful experience and share their knowledge and perspectives to help create a healthy, sustainable, and inclusive Minnesota.

The DNR has a wide variety of internship opportunities throughout the state, including in fisheries, forestry, park operations, watercraft inspections, communications and more. Interns work 20 to 40 hours per week and are paid \$15 per hour. To be considered for an internship, applicants must be enrolled students fulfilling an academic requirement or receiving academic credit.

To apply for an internship position:

- Go to the state of Minnesota [careers website](#) (mn.gov/careers).
- Select “Search for jobs” from the toolbar.
- Select “Search for jobs now” in the External Applicants box.
- Select “View all jobs.”
- Filter by “Natural Resources Dept” in the Agency category and “Student Worker and Internships” in the Job Family category.

Applicants will be accepted through Jan. 31. Positions will start in May and June.

The DNR is an equal opportunity and veteran-friendly employer. We celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion. To request an accommodation or alternative format of the applications, please contact us at: ADAdiversity.DNR@state.mn.us; 651-259-5016; or call using a preferred telecommunications relay provider.

Late winter ideal time to prune trees

Pruning is a great way to prevent spread of diseases like oak wilt

Late winter is the ideal time to prune branches on trees, according to experts with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. When done correctly, pruning in the winter is less risky to tree health.

“Now through early March — just before trees come out of dormancy — is a great time to get outside and prune your trees,” said Jennifer Teegarden, DNR cooperative forestry outreach specialist. “As trees become active in spring, they are able to quickly heal the pruning wound.”

Wintertime pruning minimizes the risk that an open pruning wound could invite pests or diseases. Pruning oak trees should be avoided from April through July, when beetles that can spread oak wilt are feeding on tree sap, which is present at new wounds.

Tree pruning tips:

- Trim branches before they grow to 2 inches in diameter to minimize wound size and damage to the surrounding bark.
- Don't cut flush to the trunk. Preserving the branch collar (the area where the trunk slightly bulges around the branch) allows the wound to heal quickly and not decay.
- Use the three-cut method for larger branches to minimize damage to the bark. Information on this method and best practices for pruning trees can be found on the [pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website](#).

Pruning trees benefits yards and homes by:

- Reducing the need for a larger pruning job in the future and improving the tree's health.
- Helping trees survive storms with fewer dropped branches and less damage.
- Improving safety by removing branches that overhang or block walkways or roads.
- Maintaining the aesthetic of yards and enhancing the beauty of the tree.

More tree care tips are available on the [tree planting and care page of the DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/treecare).

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- **City Council Meeting** – Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission VLAWMO Presentation** – Monday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m.
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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/3/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Council Strategy Session - Highlights

City Council Members conducted a strategy session on Saturday, January 28th at the North Oaks Golf Club. Discussion points included, but not limited to:

- NOHOA/City relations and strategic plans, water quality and septic systems, safety, communications, areas of concern, property values, and future goals. No motions were made.
- Highlights of the meeting will be included in the next Thursday's City Council packet meeting packet.

To view a recording of the meeting,

visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DWPTDHBO5GjILwwGKv_X4NJBKx_zbDsGfKW7jQSdK-XPANuw6mXraJVvjNsQ08.j8ivBrxrZ11tUeFA and enter Passcode: gDF!@5y6

Notice of Proposed Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be conducted before the North Oaks City Council on Thursday, February 9th, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the North Oaks Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks.

The purpose of said hearings is to review and consider possible adoption of an amendment to the City's Fee Schedule Ordinance for 2023 and to review and consider possible adoption of an amendment to the City's Septic Ordinance. Changes to the Fee Schedule reflect changes to Shoreview water customers. The SSTS ordinance reflects state code changes and verbiage changes as requested by MPCA. Refer to the calendar entry on the City website for more information when the meeting packet is released: [City Council Meeting | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

SAFETY

Reflective wear

As residents start getting out to enjoy the increasing daylight, Officer Lassegard reminds residents of the importance of wearing reflective gear when out walking. Please be cautious when driving our narrower snow lined streets in our community.

COMMUNITY

Valentine's Day Tours at the James J. Hill House

During the first two weeks in February, the James J. Hill House in St. Paul will be hosting Valentine's themed tours. Hear stories of love, courtship, romance, and marriage from both the Hill family and their domestic employees. Explore the rich world of love and romance in the Gilded Age, from calling cards to "basket socials," lavish Valentine's Day balls, early personal ads, and the rise of a newfangled practice called "dating."

Tours last 60 minutes and will be offered in place of our regular house tour on February 2-5 and February 9-12. Admission includes self-guided access to the first floor of the mansion along with a Valentine's-themed guided tour of the entire house. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://hubs.la/Q01zRKtR0>.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Winter Seed Sowing with Native Plants – February 23, 6:00 p.m.

Dreaming of Spring during these cold winter months? Learn how you can bring a little green into your home through a Winter Seed Sowing with Native Plants workshop. This FREE event, put on by the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) will help you get to know Minnesota native plants, plan out your seed sowing set-up and kick start your seed collection. The workshop takes place on Thursday, February 23rd at 6 p.m. in Vadnais Heights Commons – 655 County Rd F, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127. To learn more and register, visit [VLAWMO :: Winter Seed Sowing with Native Plants](#)

NRC /NEST Joint Presentation – Save the Date

There will be a joint presentation to the Natural Resources Commission and NOHOA NEST committee on Monday, February 13th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room. The purpose is for the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management organization (VLAWMO) to present the current status and upcoming timeline for work being done on the Wilkinson Lake improvement project.

Residents are welcome to attend or listen in. Logon information can be found on the [City website](#).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Save the date for a North Oaks Neighborhood Watch informational session being held in the Community Room at City Hall on Monday, March 6th, 2023. More details will be made available as get closer to the date.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Resources

The Sheriff's Office provides many public safety resources for residents. To view accident and incident reports, learn about crime prevention, report crime tips, learn how to get involved in community safety efforts and more, visit [Public Safety Resources | Ramsey County](#)

Late winter ideal time to prune trees

Pruning is a great way to prevent spread of diseases like oak wilt

Late winter is the ideal time to prune branches on trees, according to experts with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. When done correctly, pruning in the winter is less risky to tree health.

“Now through early March — just before trees come out of dormancy — is a great time to get outside and prune your trees,” said Jennifer Teegarden, DNR cooperative forestry outreach specialist. “As trees become active in spring, they are able to quickly heal the pruning wound.”

Wintertime pruning minimizes the risk that an open pruning wound could invite pests or diseases. Pruning oak trees should be avoided from April through July, when beetles that can spread oak wilt are feeding on tree sap, which is present at new wounds.

Tree pruning tips:

- Trim branches before they grow to 2 inches in diameter to minimize wound size and damage to the surrounding bark.

- Don't cut flush to the trunk. Preserving the branch collar (the area where the trunk slightly bulges around the branch) allows the wound to heal quickly and not decay.
- Use the three-cut method for larger branches to minimize damage to the bark. Information on this method and best practices for pruning trees can be found on the [pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website](#).

Pruning trees benefits yards and homes by:

- Reducing the need for a larger pruning job in the future and improving the tree's health.
- Helping trees survive storms with fewer dropped branches and less damage.
- Improving safety by removing branches that overhang or block walkways or roads.
- Maintaining the aesthetic of yards and enhancing the beauty of the tree.

More tree care tips are available on the [tree planting and care page of the DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/treecare).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission VLAWMO Presentation** – Monday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/10/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the City Council Meeting on Thursday, February 9th

- Resident Bill McNee shared concerns about septic system regulations, and encouraged City Council to consider a point-of-sale compliance inspection requirement.
- After a closed session with attorneys, City Council approved resolutions 1475 rescinding resolution 1466 and approving a comprehensive plan amendment for properties at 15 and 17 North Deep Lake Road. Council also approved Resolution 1476 to allow sewer connection at 17 North Deep Lake for the properties located at 15 and 17 North Deep Lake Road.
- Approved consent agenda items which included: mechanical and arborist licenses, City financials, City Council meeting minutes from 3 January meetings, proclamation supporting White Bear Chamber of Commerce's 100-year anniversary, and Resolution 1477 Granting a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities ACT to allow the installation of an elevator at the residence at 11 Creekside.
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themselves, their groups responsibilities, and shared highlights of current projects. Participants in the session included: City of North Oaks, NOHOA, Pines and Charley Lake Condo Sub-association, North Oaks Company, North Oaks Golf Club, VLAWMO, North Oaks News, Ramsey County Sherriff, Hill Farm Historical Society, North Oaks Community Foundation, Waverly Gardens as well as interested members of the public.

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Residents are welcome to listen in from the comfort of your home, and it will also be recorded. Logon information: **Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83738126955>

Or Telephone: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free), Webinar ID: 837 3812 6955

Road Restrictions – Plan ahead

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SAFETY

Coyotes -Breeding season

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NATURAL RESOURCES

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REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

City Council Strategy Session - Highlights

City Council Members conducted a strategy session on Saturday, January 28th at the North Oaks Golf Club. Discussion points included, but not limited to:

- NOHOA/City relations and strategic plans, water quality and septic systems, safety, communications, areas of concern, property values, and future goals. No motions were made.
- Highlights of the meeting will be included in the next Thursday's City Council packet meeting packet.

Reflective wear

As residents start getting out to enjoy the increasing daylight, Officer Lassegard reminds residents of the importance of wearing reflective gear when out walking. Please be cautious when driving our narrower snow lined streets in our community.

Valentine's Day Tours at the James J. Hill House

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/17/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

President's Day Office Closure

The North Oaks City Office will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of the President's Day Holiday. President's Day honors all those who have served in the office of President of the United States. It is observed on the third Monday of February to honor the birthdays of both George Washington (February 22) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12).

Happy President's Day, North Oaks!

Planning Commission – Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of North Oaks will hold a Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN to hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the application for a Conditional Use Permit for a garage exceeding 1,500 square feet for the property located at 70 West Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks, MN, 55127.

The meeting notice has been published in the Shoreview Press, website, at the City Office and abutters have been notified. Interested parties are welcome to provide input in person, or via zoom. [Click here for meeting details](#). The planning commission packet will be available on the [City website](#) 72 hours prior to the meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO / North Oaks Project Update

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City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/24/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Recycling Shifts Due to Winter Storm

Due to the winter storm this week, recycling pick-up on Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February 24 has shifted to Monday, February 27th. For those affected by this change, please set your recycling bin out by 6:00 a.m. on Monday. Please make sure they are in the driveway and not in the street which may impede snow plows.

Recycling pick-up will resume the normal schedule beginning Tuesday, February 28th.

Planning Commission Meeting Rescheduled

Due to the winter storm, the Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd was cancelled. Business has been shifted to Thursday, March 6th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular City Council meeting.

Refer to the [meeting notice for complete details](#) and new zoom logon numbers.

Special City Council Meeting – This Monday

There will be a special meeting of the City Council this Monday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. The purpose of the meeting is a City Council Strategy session regarding pending and future City matters including; budget and funding sources, utility related matters such as future utility connections and extension, roads and safety, environmental matters including; garbage haulers and recycling, water, sewer, security/policing, technology and communication, internet, cable, electrical, solar, sustainable community efforts. City Council priority setting, discussion of related City matters.

The meeting will be in person only. Refer to the [meeting notice](#) for more details.

Locking Mailbox – new orders

If your mailbox has become a casualty of winter snow conditions, we are taking orders for the next bulk purchase which will be placed mid-March (once the snow melts and ground thaws). Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form. Contact the City office with any questions at 651-792- 7750.

COMMUNITY

Snow Plowing

Thank you to Mel's services for their long hours in clearing our snowy roads this week, and to residents for keeping their vehicles off the streets!

Open Mic Night - Tonight

Mounds View High School's Choir "Open Mic Night" takes place tonight, Friday February 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Peace United Methodist Church, located at 5050 Hodgson Road, North Oaks. Sit back and listen to students take the stage to perform solo and small group songs of their choice. Proceeds support the Mounds View High School Choir future choir tours and field trips.

SAFETY

Keep Vents Clear of Snow

As we enjoy the last month of winter snowfalls, an important reminder to clear snow from outdoor vents to keep your furnace running properly and avoid dangerous levels of Carbon Monoxide in your home. Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the "Invisible Killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Be sure to also clear snow from around dryer vents, and gas and electric meters.

Fire Hydrant Clearing

If you have fire hydrants in your immediate area, please help keep hydrants clear of snow and ice so the fire department can access them in case of emergency. If a hydrant has been damaged by a plow or other means, please contact us at 651-792-7750.

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- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (shifted from Thursday, February 23rd due to weather-related cancellation)
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A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, Phone: 651-792-7750

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—3/3/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Notice of Special Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday 3.9.23 6 p.m.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 13D.04 and 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission of North Oaks will be held on **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127. The special meeting notice and agenda can be found [HERE](#).

The full Planning Commission Packet and zoom link can also be found on the meeting entry on the [City Website](#).

Highlights from the Special City Council Meeting – Monday, February 27th

- The City Council held a productive meeting to explore strategy items for the upcoming year. The primary areas of interest included conducting a full infrastructure study, lake/water quality improvements, and safety and security measures. The Council will continue to work on their strategic plan throughout the year.

City Hall Schedule – Slight Delay

Due to staff Spring Break, from Thursday, March 9th through Wednesday, March 15th, there may be a slight delay in processing routine items coming into City Hall. Please email requests / questions to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or leave message on 651-792-7750. All items will be addressed within 24 hours. Contractors can submit permit applications using our online permit submission portal [HERE](#).

Recycling Pickup - Tips

Thanks to everyone for your patience with the shifts needed last week due to the winter weather. Recycling is back on normal schedule for everyone. If there are residents that have been wintering away and had their pickup on pause, please call the City office to request restart of recycling.

Also, an important reminder that all boxes must be flattened in recycling, shortened to max 4 feet length, and no plastic wrap. The Eureka recycling plant has the right to reject loads of recycling if these items are identified. If these items are in your bin, please remove to ensure pick up of your recycling cart. With the number of homes in North Oaks, the recycle drivers can't pick through each cart sorting through your items. Thanks for your cooperation!

SAFETY

Notice of Possible Quorum -Neighborhood Watch Information Session: This Monday, March 6th, 7 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of the North Oaks City Council/Commissions may be present at the **Neighborhood Watch informational session on Monday, March 6th, 7 p.m.** View the [meeting notice here](#).

Residents are encouraged to attend as the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office facilitates a neighborhood watch informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 6 in the North Oaks City Hall Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150.

This meeting will cover the foundation of what the program is all about, expectations of participants, and answer questions from residents. Applications forms will be available for those interested in serving as Block Captains. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom: [Neighborhood Watch Informational Session | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

Residents are welcome to attend in-person or listen in from the comfort of your home, and it will also be recorded. Logon information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89417216429> or by calling 888 788 0099, Webinar ID: 894 1721 6429,

Ramsey County Block Captain – March News

Excerpt from Ramsey County Sherriff's Office Newsletter

The Ramsey County Block Captain March Newsletter has important information on the following topics. View the full articles [HERE](#):

- Traffic safety initiatives – DWI Enforcement and Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Social media platforms – Nextdoor and Social media Apps
- Top scams of 2022 – Don't be a victim
- Online quiz dangers – Could it lead to identify theft?
- Urban wildlife observations – Bear / Coyote /Waterfowl

The 2023 Neighborhood Watch registration form ([link to form](#)) is also up on the website for interested residents. Having current information helps us operate and your City bases support for programs, such as signs, on enrollment information.

COMMUNITY

Locking Mailbox – City Hall taking new orders

If your mailbox has become a casualty of winter snow conditions, we are taking orders for the next bulk purchase which will be placed mid-March (once the snow melts and ground thaws). Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form. Contact the City office with any questions at 651-792- 7750.

Ramsey County Requests Public Input

Ramsey County is conducting community conversations regarding the Ramsey County All Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan. Ramsey County is currently undertaking Public Engagement for the plan which will help guide transportation investment for the next 27 years, and we are interested in hearing from the North Oaks community.

This project will take place over the next year, beginning next week with a series of community conversations around existing experience in navigating around Ramsey County. They are hosting two online community conversations:

March 9th from 6-7pm

March 28 from 6-7pm

No registration is required. The link to join the conversations is on the Ramsey County project website.

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/content/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan-virtual-community-meeting>

NATURAL RESOURCES

NOHOA Nest Meeting link

On Monday, February 13th, the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management organization (VLAWMO) presented the current status and upcoming timeline for work being done on the Wilkinson Lake improvement project to the Natural Resources Commission and the NOHOA NEST committee. The instructions / link for viewing this presentation are available on the City Website [HERE](#).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Planning Commission Meeting Rescheduled

Due to the winter storm, the Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd was cancelled. Business has been shifted to Thursday, March 6th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular City Council meeting.

Refer to the [meeting notice for complete details](#) and new zoom logon numbers.

Snow Plowing

Thank you to Mel's services for their long hours in clearing our snowy roads this week, and to residents for keeping their vehicles off the streets!

Keep Vents Clear of Snow

As we enjoy the last month of winter snowfalls, an important reminder to clear snow from outdoor vents to keep your furnace running properly and avoid dangerous levels of Carbon Monoxide in your home. Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the "Invisible Killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Be sure to also clear snow from around dryer vents, and gas and electric meters.

Fire Hydrant Clearing

If you have fire hydrants in your immediate area, please help keep hydrants clear of snow and ice so the fire department can access them in case of emergency. If a hydrant has been damaged by a plow or other means, please contact us at 651-792-7750.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—3/10/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Reminder: Spring Forward for Daylight Saving Time on March 12

Sunday, March 12th is the first day of Daylight-Saving Time. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour when you go to sleep on Saturday night!

Road Restrictions Take Effect Friday, March 10th

Road restrictions went into effect beginning Friday, March 10th at 12:01 a.m. During this period the 3 ton per axle restriction will be in effect.

This period is determined by the MN Department of Transportation based on road conditions and typically lasts 4-5 weeks. Road restrictions are put in place to protect the integrity of road surfaces during the spring ground thaw. Larger loads will need to be split onto smaller trucks during this period. Plan ahead now.

There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions through the City during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency. Any exemptions can only be granted by the North Oaks Homeowners Association under special circumstances. NOHOA can be reached at 651-792-7765. Violations of road restrictions are subject to ticketing during this period.

Start and end dates and other load limit information can be found at

http://www.dot.state.mn.us/loadlimits/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Highlights from the Special Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday, March 9th

- Approval of meeting minutes of 6.30.2022 and 8.25.2022 (this was first Planning Commission meeting since August 2022).
- Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of a CUP application for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at 70 West Pleasant Lake Road with conditions. City Council to make final determination.
- Planning Commission to take part in a review training session hosted by City Attorney and Planner. Commissioners will also consider scheduling two meetings a month starting in April.

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- Several residents spoke in regards to concerns of our aging septic systems, cost of replacement and potential options going forward as a community.
- City Council approved consent agenda items which including: arborist and mechanical licensing, Council Meeting minutes of 2.9.23, City financials, Resolution for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at 70 West Pleasant Lake Road.
- Approved verbiage changes in City Code Ordinance Septic Chapter 51 to meet Minnesota Pollution control standards.
- Approval for City Administrative Kress to gain input / proposals from various firms to look at overall master infrastructure plan for North Oaks water, sewer, utilities, etc.

- Approval for City Administrator to discuss contract negotiations with Sambatek for Engineering Services to replace H.R. Green. Proposal to be brought back to Council for review and approval.

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Click [HERE](#) for more details and helpful documents on getting a program started in your neighborhood area. Complete the Ramsey County Crime Prevention form to register your group. A recording of the Neighborhood Watch meeting can be viewed on the [City website](#).

Public Safety Report

At the City Council meeting, Officer Lassegard provided information on tips for being proactive in maintaining a safe and secure community.

- **SPRING FEVER (vehicles speeding)**
 - More people out on the streets.
 - More speeding, slow down & be careful of pedestrians.
 - Be mindful of surroundings/ reflective vests/walk on the left side of the road.
- **THEFT FROM AUTO'S**
 - Lock doors.
 - Thieves do not know your purse/bag/backpack is empty – keep it out of sight.
 - Keep wallet/cell phone with you.
- **FRESH THEFT, SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE/PERSON**
 - For immediate issues CALL 911: DO NOT call Deputy Lassegard
 - Ensures most rapid response by Ramsey County Sherriff personnel closest to incident
 - If additional information becomes available after the incident, feel free to provide follow up information to Deputy Lassegard for further research.
- **HOME SECURITY**
 - Close garage doors during day.
 - Clean snow off driveway/sidewalks so home appears occupied
 - Have neighbor drive to garage to maintain fresh snow tracks

- **FRAUD**
 - Targets elderly.
 - If it is too good to be true, it is.
 - Hang up phone/talk to family/call Deputy Lassegard
 -

Wondering what is considered Suspicious Activity and whether to call 911? Here are [tips to help identify what is Suspicious Activity](#) in your community.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wilkinson Lake Project Community Presentation and Q & A

Top of Form

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., join VLAWMO and Houston Engineering, Inc., for a presentation on the proposed deep-water wetland restoration project near Wilkinson Lake, also known as the Wilkinson Lake Best Management Practice (BMP). The presentation will focus on sharing preliminary plans and will include time for discussion and questions from residents. The presentation will take place in the North Oaks Community Room at City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming VLAWMO Workshops – Open to public

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) is hosting a series of workshops that are open to the public.

The next two topics are:

Turf Alternatives: Blue Thumb Workshop Tuesday, March 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (online)
Content: Learn from expert presenters about the steps to converting a traditional turfgrass monoculture lawn into a bee lawn or other turf alternatives that promotes pollinator health and water quality. Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

Pollinator Plantings: Tuesday, April 11th 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (online) Content: What's the difference between plant shopping and plant designing? Join guest speaker Diana Grunden as we discuss ways to work with and get the most out of our landscapes. Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

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- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—3/24/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Save the date: Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 25th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 25th, 2022. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$140, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

Budget Tree Service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please [review the letter for pricing detail and instructions, and return the waiver](#) to the City office via email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or stopping by the City office by May 23rd. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

SAFETY

A general safety reminder to keep an eye out for suspicious activity, and make sure driveways appear used. Bring in trash cans, and papers delivered to driveways and mailboxes. There was a suspicious person reported on Aspen Lane last week at a home with an un-shoveled driveway. After seeing the home-owner he left, however just a reminder to keep an eye out for unusual activity in your own neighborhood. Report anything suspicious to 911.

Locking Mailbox – City Hall taking new orders

Ease your worries about mail theft. We are taking orders for the next bulk purchase which will be placed late-March (once the snow melts and ground thaws). Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form. Contact the City office with any questions at 651-792- 7750.

COMMUNITY

North Oaks Garden Club News

The North Oaks Garden Club has been busy getting ready for spring and has several announcements:

The 2023 North Oaks Garden Club Order Form is now ready. You can download the form [here](#) or from the North Oaks Garden Club website at: www.nogardenclub.com. Hard copies of the order form are available at the City of North Oaks office or in a box outside the Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle). The deadline for submitting orders is Wednesday, April 12.

The Garden Club will be hosting several speakers at the North Oaks Community Room (100 Village Center Drive) and invites the entire community to learn about the following topics:

1. Wednesday, March 29 6:30 pm: Climate Resilient Gardening. This presentation will be available via Zoom as well as in person. To request the Zoom link, please send an email to nogardenclub@gmail.com.
2. Tuesday, April 4 6:30 pm: 2023 Order Form highlights and gardening Q & As.
3. Wednesday, April 26 6:30 pm: Spring Into Summer.

To RSVP for any of these meetings, please send an email to nancygardenhans@yahoo.com.

Happy spring planning and planting from the North Oaks Garden Club!

NATURAL RESOURCES

Carp Presentation

VLAWMO and NOHOA invite you to attend a presentation about the common carp removal project. Common carp is an invasive species in Minnesota that reduces water quality when these fish mix up the sediment, stirring it into the water column and releasing nutrients, and uproot aquatic plants. 2022 was a very successful carp removal year for the project. Spring carp removal activities will be getting underway again in the coming weeks. We will provide an update on progress to date and explain upcoming activities.

Additional partners in this project include St. Paul Regional Water Services and North Oaks Company. The main consultant leading the project is Carp Solutions.

The presentation will be held in person on April 11, 6:30 pm, in the North Oaks Community Room at 100 Village Center Drive. We hope to see you there!

Ramsey County Recycling Guide

The Ramsey County Recycling Guide will hit resident mailboxes this week. There are additional copies at the City office, or simply click [HERE](#) for an easy searchable online disposal guide.



How Minnesota Recycling Works

Have you ever questioned if recycling is worth it? Short answer: yes. Beyond saving energy and protecting natural resources, recycling also supports vital industries.

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Our cans, bottles and paper are dropped off at a local facility where people and machines sort the

recycling into material types which are sent to many different companies:

1. **Paper and cardboard** are made into newspapers, toilet paper rolls and cereal boxes at five paper mills in Minnesota.
2. **Cartons** like juice boxes are sent to a company in Wisconsin that makes a material for new paper products.
3. **Aluminum cans** get turned into new cans, wire, siding and more at plants in the South.
4. **Steel cans** like those used for soup are made into steel beams in Chicago.
5. **Plastic bottles with a number 1 like water and soda bottles** are shipped to other states to be made into new bottles, deli food containers and carpet.
6. **Plastic containers with a number 2 like milk jugs** are transformed into low-maintenance lumber by companies like Avon Plastics in Paynesville. They are also made into more bottles or irrigation tubing for farmers.

7. **Cottage cheese and other plastic tubs with a number 5** are used to create food containers, car parts, paint cans and more by companies in other states.
8. **Glass bottles and jars** are sorted by color in Saint Paul. Clear glass goes to Anchor Glass in Shakopee to make condiment bottles. Brown glass is sent to Illinois to make beer bottles.

Recycling is wanted by many companies in our state and across the country. Help support local recycling business:

1. **Stick to the basics:** Recycle the items listed above.
2. **Keep it loose:** Empty recycling into your bin – no plastic bags.
3. **Check with your recycling hauler or Ramsey County** ([RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ) or 651-633-3279) for everything else.

2023 Free Park Day announced for Minnesota State Parks, recreation areas

Via MN Department of Natural Resources: Minnesotans encouraged to explore outdoors with friends, family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on four dates in 2023. The Free Park Days will be **Saturday, April 22; Saturday, June 10; Saturday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Nov. 24.**

With the support of the state legislature, the DNR offers Free Park Days to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

Getting outdoors makes exercise more fun and can boost mood and immunity. According to the American Psychological Association, exposure to nature is linked to benefits like improved attention and lower stress.

There's a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans. In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, skiing and birding, a variety of state park programs are open to all visitors. Programs are free, but some require pre-registration. Find state park programs online at the [state parks and trails events calendar](https://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar) (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

The entrance fee waiver on Free Park Days does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours. For more information, visit the DNR's Free Park Days page (mndnr.gov/freeparkdays) or contact the DNR Information Center by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or by calling 888-646-6367 between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

DNR webinars cover loons, backyard bird feeding

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in wildlife and outdoor skills to tune in to upcoming webinars that feature discussions about loons and backyard bird feeding.

The first webinar is at noon Wednesday, March 22. Kevin Kenow, loon researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey, will discuss where loons breed, where they spend the winter, what they eat, what threats they face and information on Minnesota's loon population.

The second webinar is Wednesday, March 29. Lori Naumann, nongame wildlife outreach specialist with the DNR, will discuss bird feeding best practices, actions people can take to benefit birds and tips for attracting different birds to feeders.

The webinars are part of the DNR's Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series. The webinars are free, but registration is required. More information is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/discover) (mndnr.gov/discover).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Road Restrictions Are in Effect

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 2. More speeding, slow down & be careful of pedestrians.
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 7. For immediate issues CALL 911: DO NOT call Deputy Lassegard
 8. Ensures most rapid response by Ramsey County Sherriff personnel closest to incident
 9. If additional information becomes available after the incident, feel free to provide follow up information to Deputy Lassegard for further research.

4. **HOME SECURITY**
 10. Close garage doors during day.
 11. Clean snow off driveway/sidewalks so home appears occupied
 12. Have neighbor drive to garage to maintain fresh snow tracks

5. **FRAUD**
 13. Targets elderly.
 14. If it is too good to be true, it is.
 15. Hang up phone/talk to family/call Deputy Lassegard

Wondering what is considered Suspicious Activity and whether to call 911? Here are [tips to help identify what is Suspicious Activity](#) in your community.

Upcoming VLAWMO Workshops – Open to public

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) is hosting a series of workshops that are open to the public.

The next two topics are:

Turf Alternatives: Blue Thumb Workshop Tuesday, March 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (online)
Content: Learn from expert presenters about the steps to converting a traditional turfgrass monoculture lawn into a bee lawn or other turf alternatives that promotes pollinator health and water quality. Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

Pollinator Plantings: Tuesday, April 11th 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (online) Content: What's the difference between plant shopping and plant designing? Join guest speaker Diana Grundeen as we discuss ways to work with and get the most out of our landscapes. Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

1. **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
2. **City Council** – Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

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*** Connect with us! “Follow” the [City of North Oaks Facebook page](#) for the most current City updates.*

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—3/31/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

PRIOR WEEK EBLAST – Technical issues

Due to new spam filters implemented by the City I.T. Department, it's our understanding that last week's eblast may have only made it to part of the distribution list. Please pay special attention to the "Reminders – In Case you Missed it" section below for these items.

Special Planning Commission Meeting – April 12th

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 13D. 04 and 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission of North Oaks will be held on Wednesday April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

Applicant North Oaks Company, LLC is requesting modifications to Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Chapter 3 and amendments to Maps 1, 16, 17 and 18 of the City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan which would allow the installation of municipal sanitary sewer and water systems. The amendment would add additional area to the Emerging Suburban Edge (Map 1), Future Sewer Area (Map 16), Future Service Area (Map 17), and Future Water Service Areas (Map 18). The areas proposed to be added to Maps 16, 17 are Tracts A through R of RLS 640. Maps 1 and 18 areas proposed to be added area Tracts A through R of RLS 640 and Tracts F and H of RLS 561.

View the [full meeting notice](#) published on the City website and Shoreview Press for participation details.

Save the date: Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 25th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 25th, 2022. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$140, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

Budget Tree Service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please [review the letter for pricing detail and instructions, and return the waiver](#) to the City office via email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or stopping by the City office by May 23rd. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

SAFETY

Safe Drug Disposal

Do you have a stockpile of unwanted, expired or unused medicines? Ramsey County offers safe disposal options through public drop boxes. Safe disposal of unwanted medicine helps prevent crime, drug abuse and accidental poisoning. For information on how and where to dispose of medication, visit [Drug Take Back Sites | OPUS Coalition](#)

COMMUNITY

North Oaks Garden Club News

The North Oaks Garden Club has been busy getting ready for spring and has several announcements:

The 2023 North Oaks Garden Club Order Form is now ready. You can download the form [here](#) or from the North Oaks Garden Club website at: www.nogardenclub.com. Hard copies of the order form are available at the City of North Oaks office or in a box outside the Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle). The deadline for submitting orders is Wednesday, April 12.

The Garden Club is hosting upcoming events at the North Oaks Community Room (100 Village Center Drive) and invites the entire community to learn about the following topics:

- Tuesday, April 4 6:30 pm: Learn about new plants on the 2023 Garden Club Order Form and get answers to your gardening questions from seasoned gardeners.
- Wednesday, April 26 6:30 pm: Learn how to wake up your garden with Spring Into Summer, a presentation by Ramsey County Master Gardeners.

To RSVP for either of these events, please send an email to nancygardenhans@yahoo.com.

Happy spring planning and planting from the North Oaks Garden Club!

Summer Hours Begin at Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste and Yard Waste Sites

Get ready for spring cleaning – expanded summer hours for Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste and Yard Waste sites begin Saturday, April 1st. To find collection hours and locations, visit [Home - Ramsey Recycles Ramsey Recycles](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

EagleCam Updates: A Chick Is Hatched!

The Minnesota DNR Nongame EagleCam egg has hatched! This single chick was hatched sometime on March 26th in the afternoon. Check it out here: [DNR EagleCam | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#) And don't forget to keep your eyes peeled around the North Oaks community for nesting eagles this spring season!

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SAFETY Tips

A general safety reminder to keep an eye out for suspicious activity, and make sure driveways appear used. Bring in trash cans, and papers delivered to driveways and mailboxes. There was a suspicious person reported on Aspen Lane last week at a home with an un-shoveled driveway. After seeing the home-owner he left, however just a reminder to keep an eye out for unusual activity in your own neighborhood. Report anything suspicious directly to 911.

Locking Mailbox – City Hall taking new orders

Ease your worries about mail theft. We are taking orders for the next bulk purchase which will be placed late-March (once the snow melts and ground thaws). Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form. Contact the City office with any questions at 651-792- 7750.

Carp Presentation

VLAWMO and NOHOA invite you to attend a presentation about the common carp removal project. Common carp is an invasive species in Minnesota that reduces water quality when these fish mix up the sediment, stirring it into the water column and releasing nutrients, and uproot aquatic plants. 2022 was

a very successful carp removal year for the project. Spring carp removal activities will be getting underway again in the coming weeks. We will provide an update on progress to date and explain upcoming activities.

Additional partners in this project include St. Paul Regional Water Services and North Oaks Company. The main consultant leading the project is Carp Solutions.

The presentation will be held in person on April 11, 6:30 pm, in the North Oaks Community Room at 100 Village Center Drive. We hope to see you there!

Ramsey County Recycling Guide

The Ramsey County Recycling Guide will hit resident mailboxes this week. There are additional copies at the City office, or simply click [HERE](#) for an easy searchable online disposal guide.

How Minnesota Recycling Works

Have you ever questioned if recycling is worth it? Short answer: yes. Beyond saving energy and protecting natural resources, recycling also supports vital industries.

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Our cans, bottles and paper are dropped off at a local facility where people and machines sort the recycling into material types which are sent to many different companies:



- **Paper and cardboard** are made into newspapers, toilet paper rolls and cereal boxes at five paper mills in Minnesota.
- **Cartons** like juice boxes are sent to a company in Wisconsin that makes a material for new paper products.
- **Aluminum cans** get turned into new cans, wire, siding and more at plants in the South.
- **Steel cans** like those used for soup are made into steel beams in Chicago.
- **Plastic bottles with a number 1 like water and soda bottles** are shipped to other states to be made into new bottles, deli food containers and carpet.
- **Plastic containers with a number 2 like milk jugs** are transformed into low-maintenance lumber by companies like Avon Plastics in Paynesville. They are also made into more bottles or irrigation tubing for farmers.
- **Cottage cheese and other plastic tubs with a number 5** are used to create food containers, car parts, paint cans and more by companies in other states.
- **Glass bottles and jars** are sorted by color in Saint Paul. Clear glass goes to Anchor Glass in Shakopee to make condiment bottles. Brown glass is sent to Illinois to make beer bottles.

Recycling is wanted by many companies in our state and across the country. Help support local recycling business:

- **Stick to the basics:** Recycle the items listed above.
- **Keep it loose:** Empty recycling into your bin – no plastic bags.

- **Check with your recycling hauler or Ramsey County** ([RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ) or 651-633-3279) for everything else.

2023 Free Park Day announced for Minnesota State Parks, recreation areas

Via MN Department of Natural Resources: Minnesotans encouraged to explore outdoors with friends, family

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on four dates in 2023. The Free Park Days will be **Saturday, April 22; Saturday, June 10; Saturday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Nov. 24.**

With the support of the state legislature, the DNR offers Free Park Days to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

Getting outdoors makes exercise more fun and can boost mood and immunity. According to the American Psychological Association, exposure to nature is linked to benefits like improved attention and lower stress.

There's a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans. In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, skiing and birding, a variety of state park programs are open to all visitors. Programs are free, but some require pre-registration. Find state park programs online at the [state parks and trails events calendar](https://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar) (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

The entrance fee waiver on Free Park Days does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours.

For more information, visit the DNR's Free Park Days page (mndnr.gov/freeparkdays) or contact the DNR Information Center by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or by calling 888-646-6367 between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/14/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the Special Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing – April 12th

- Commissioner Nick Sandell was appointed as Vice Chair for the Planning Commission.
- Planning Commission recommended approval for a comprehensive plan amendment to amend City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan to add additional properties within the Red Forest Way South development for future municipal sewer and water service. City staff will explore this issue further with the Met Council, and City Council will consider the proposal for final approval at a future meeting.
- Planning Commission approved Resolution No. 2023-1 that determined that the application for property subdivision (Preliminary Plan Approval) for Subdivision of RLS 640, Tract R, Red Forest Way South Phase 2 is complete. The application will be considered for compliance and recommendation for approval or denial at a future meeting.
- The Commission adopted a new annual calendar that adds additional meeting dates to the calendar. View the updated meeting schedule on the City calendar [HERE](#).
- Planning Commission gave approval for City Staff to bring several ordinance amendments to the Commission for consideration at upcoming meetings. Priority amendments would be updates to the Planning Commission process, building height requirements, grading requirements and updating the zoning map to be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive plan and to some inconsistencies and errors.

The full Special Planning Commission meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Highlights from Special City Council / Planning Commission Training

City Staff conducted a training session with City Council and Planning Commission members.

Attorney Nason spoke on a variety of topics including:

- City structure, open meeting law guidelines, conditions for holding a closed meeting, Data Practices Act, what constitutes conflict of interest, guidelines for public hearings, and methods to address nuisance issues.

City Planner Lindahl spoke on the standard phases of the Municipal planning process including:

- Overall goals for planning process, importance of guiding documents such as the comprehensive plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances, the Conditional use permit and Variance process, and the importance of the 60-day rule.

This training session can be viewed under the City Council workshop session [HERE](#). (skip to 18 min. mark for start of the meeting).

Highlights from the City Council Meeting – April 13th

- Consent agenda approved including City financials, arborist and mechanical Licenses, City Council meeting minutes of 2.27.23 and 3.9.23, and the annual contract with the Human Society of Woodbury as the resource for Ramsey County Sheriff Animal Control.
- Sheriff Deputy Lassegard shared his monthly report, along with guidance to keep red mailbox flags down to secure outgoing checks, removing food sources to keep bears/coyote away, and noted the red flag warning for no burning at this time. If there is a vulnerable adult in the community please let him know at Matt.Lassegard@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US. His full report can be found in the 4.13.2023 City Council meeting packet.

- Fire Chief Tim Boehkle provided an update on year 2022 fire department alarm calls and future plans. There were 581 calls in North Oaks last year, with 75% of them EMS calls. There are 85 part-time fire fighters serving the cities of North Oaks, Shoreview, and Arden Hills as part of the joint service agreement. They are seeing a demand for staffing among multiple agencies, and they are looking to hire additional full-time staff to cover gaps. Discussions will continue regarding employee retention as well as long-term funding of resources and stations.
- Geoffrey Mass from Ramsey County presented on their services and imagery used by the Ramsey County assessor's office. They are requesting of Council and NOHOA, to consider allowing them to take street view imagery in our community. Follow up conversations to take place regarding concerns of security of data, who would have access, public security, authority and if a true need for this information.
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) presented on the upcoming Wilkinson Water Quality project. Council authorized the City Administrator to formally draft a letter of approval of the project.
- Council approved lowest bid for the Charley Lake Townhomes Association Shoreview water connection project. Authorized City to move forward discussions with contractor and potentially start construction in the fall/winter 2023. There was discussion of funding cost, size of pipe and potential for connecting other homes in future.
- Two bids have been received from Engineer firms to put together a North Oaks Master Infrastructure Plan looking at the long term needs of the community. The goal is to have all firms that solicited bids present to Council prior to the next May Council meeting.
- Council authorized a switch to from H.R. Green to Sambatek as the City Engineer.

The full City Council meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Possible Quorum of City Council / Planning Commission

Members of City Council and Planning Commission may attend a Leadership Meet and Greet hosted by the North Oaks Homeowner's Association on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 from 3 – 6 p.m. The event involves social interaction with leadership from 16 different North Oaks community organizations and includes a tour of: Waverly Gardens grounds, Anderson Woods & Villa Model, Spring Farm and Red Forest Way South sites, and a Hill Farm Condominium model. This is a coordinated opportunity to tour development sites already approved with construction underway.

Red Flag Warning – No Burning

There is currently a red flag "no burning" restriction in place due to the dry ground conditions. There is no recreational or brush burning until this is lifted. It is hopeful the coming rain will help reduce this risk. Check the Fire Prevention & Permits section of the [Lake Johanna Fire Department website](#) for information on obtaining burn permits and guidelines on recreational fires.

SAFETY

Public Safety tips from Deputy Lassegard

FOR CURRENT THEFT, SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE/PERSON/VULNERABLE ADULT

- Please call 911 first.
- Deputy weekly schedule intentionally varies. I do like phone calls for follow up information to reported issues. Deputy Matt's Cell phone: 651-448-1890.

HOME NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

- Bear / Coyote season – no bear reported yet, but take precautions to reduce food sources. (see Reminder section below)
- Consider being a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain
- Council Member Shuman + MHOA Ted Risdall spearheading efforts
- E-MAIL Crimeprevention@RamseyCounty.US
- Phone 651-266-7315 or GOOGLE Ramsey County Public Safety Services

FRAUD DURING TAX SEASON AND BEYOND

- Mail theft: Consider not using your mailbox red flag. Take checks to post office blue mailboxes.
- IRS does not call citizens for payment
- If “government agency” or “business” ask/require Crypto Currency or Gift Cards for any transaction - Hang up.

146 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN PRIOR MONTH

- NOTABLE
 - Suspicious activity at Aspen and North Deep Lake RD, Vulnerable adult call at 5919 Centerville RD, Death (natural causes) 5919 Centerville RD, Theft at Walgreens, Theft from auto turned Felony Fraud at 5959 Centerville, Overweight vehicles
 - 25 Traffic stops

Public Safety Community Conversation

Ramsey County Commissioner Nicole Frethem will be holding a public safety conversation on Wednesday, April 26th at the Shoreview Library (4560 Victoria St. N) from 6:00-8:00pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Watershed at a Glance Resource

The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) has released their annual Watershed at a Glance. This document provides a snapshot of some of the main projects from 2022-2023. Check out what they’ve been up to here: [VLAWMO :: Annual Watershed at a Glance and Water Monitoring Report](#)

Ramsey County Recycling – Compost Bins Save \$20

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling compost bins for \$76 plus tax this year. Ramsey County residents can receive a \$20 discount.

Order online at RecycleMinnesota.org and enter promo code “Ramsey” to receive the discounted price. Or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident. Pick up your pre-ordered bin on Saturday, April 29 in Maplewood. Find additional sales at RecycleMinnesota.org.

Northeast Metro Climate Action Movie and Panel Discussion Event

Northeast Metro Climate Action will be hosting a virtual April event about plastic and climate change. First, watch the movie anytime from April 17 to April 26. Then join them on Zoom on April 26th at 7:00 p.m. for a panel discussion. To register and receive a link to watch the film, visit: <https://bit.ly/NEMCA0426>

THE STORY OF PLASTIC

A Movie and Panel Discussion Event

FIRST: Watch the free movie "The Story of Plastic" from the comfort of your own home. A link to the movie will be provided.



THEN: Join us on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom for a panel discussion with two plastics experts.

Details:

#1. WATCH the movie anytime from April 17 to April 26. We will send you a link to the free movie once you register for the Zoom event (see below).

#2. Join our panel discussion on Zoom on Wednesday, April 26th at 7 PM. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/NEMCA0426>

Cohosted By:

- Northeast Metro Climate Action
- Vote Climate
- Indivisible North Metro Environment Team
- Resilient Roseville
- West Metro Climate Action
- St Croix Valley Indivisible Climate Justice Team

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Locking Mailbox Orders – Order Being placed Tuesday April 18th.

Last Chance! Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. Payment can be made through the [City website](#) or by mailing a check. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form.

Contact the City office if you plan to be part of this order, or with any questions at 651-792- 7750.

Sign up Now: Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 25th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 25th, 2022. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$140, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

Budget Tree Service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please [review the letter for pricing detail and instructions, and return the waiver](#) to the City office via email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or stopping by the City office by May 23rd. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

North Oaks Public Safety Data

Interested in Public Safety trends for our North Oaks Community? You can view the 1st Quarter Ramsey County Sheriff's office report of North Oaks incident call data from 2019 – 2023 [HERE](#).

Prevent conflicts with Bears with these Spring tips

With bears emerging from hibernation in the coming weeks, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds homeowners to check their property for food sources that could attract bears. "Please take the time now to remove or secure anything that could attract a bear," said Eric Nelson, DNR wildlife damage program supervisor. "Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return again."

Avoid bear conflicts by following these tips:

Around the yard

- Any time you feed birds, you risk attracting bears. Avoid feeding birds from April 1 to Nov. 15. If you still wish to feed birds, hang birdfeeders 10 feet up and 4 feet out from the nearest trees.
- Do not put out feed for wildlife (like corn, oats, pellets or molasses blocks).
- Do not leave food from barbeques and picnics outdoors, especially overnight. Standard coolers are not bear-proof. Clean and store barbeque grills in a secure shed or garage away from windows and doors after each use.
- Harvest garden produce as it matures, pick any fruit left on trees and collect any fallen fruit. Locate gardens away from forests and shrubs that bears may use for cover.
- Store pet food inside and feed pets inside. If pets must be fed outdoors, feed them only as much as they will eat.

Click [here](#) for more detailed resources on [preventing interactions with Bear in Ramsey County](#). If there is a bear sighting in your area of North Oaks, **please contact the City** so we may alert other neighbors in the area that it is passing through.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Everbridge Emergency Management Demo** – Thursday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Tentative (as needed), May 4th, 11th, and 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/7/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

There are two special public City meetings this upcoming week. Refer to details below.

Special Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing – April 12th

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 13D.04 and 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission of North Oaks will be held on **Wednesday April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

Applicant North Oaks Company, LLC is requesting modifications to Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Chapter 3 and amendments to Maps 1, 16, 17 and 18 of the City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan which would allow the installation of municipal sanitary sewer and water systems. The amendment would add additional area to the Emerging Suburban Edge (Map 1), Future Sewer Area (Map 16), Future Service Area (Map 17), and Future Water Service Areas (Map 18). The areas proposed to be added to Maps 16, 17 are Tracts A through R of RLS 640. Maps 1 and 18 areas proposed to be added area Tracts A through R of RLS 640 and Tracts F and H of RLS 561.

View the [full meeting notices](#) and [Agenda Packet](#) on the City website.

Special Meetings – City Council / Planning Commission Training – April 13th

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 13D.04 and 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission of North Oaks will be held on **Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

The purpose of the meeting is City Council and Planning Commission training with City staff and consultants. This training session will be available to view via zoom, but will not be televised on Cable Channel 16. The full meeting notice is [HERE](#) and [agenda](#) can be found on the City website.

The regular City Council meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. will be televised as usual.

Locking Mailbox Orders – Extended Deadline

We have extended the deadline for new mailbox orders through April 14th. Prices shown are at a discount rate from online ordering and include shipping and tax. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. Payment can be made through the [City website](#) or by mailing a check. All mailboxes are black with dimensions shown on the order form.

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COMMUNITY

Spring Plant Sale – deadline approaching

April 12th is the deadline for the pre-order of plants from the North Oaks Garden Club. See details in the “Reminders – In case you missed it section below.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Prevent conflicts with Bears with these Spring tips

With bears emerging from hibernation in the coming weeks, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds homeowners to check their property for food sources that could attract bears.

“Please take the time now to remove or secure anything that could attract a bear,” said Eric Nelson, DNR wildlife damage program supervisor. “Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return again.”

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Save the date: Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 25th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 25th, 2022. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$140, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

Budget Tree Service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please [review the letter for pricing detail and instructions, and return the waiver](#) to the City office via email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or stopping by the City office by May 23rd. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Safe Drug Disposal

Do you have a stockpile of unwanted, expired or unused medicines? Ramsey County offers safe disposal options through public drop boxes. Safe disposal of unwanted medicine helps prevent crime, drug abuse and accidental poisoning. For information on how and where to dispose of medication, visit [Drug Take Back Sites | OPUS Coalition](#)

North Oaks Garden Club News

The North Oaks Garden Club has been busy getting ready for spring and has several announcements:

The 2023 North Oaks Garden Club Order Form is now ready. You can download the form [here](#) or from the North Oaks Garden Club website at: www.nogardenclub.com. Hard copies of the order form are available at the City of North Oaks office or in a box outside the Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle). The deadline for submitting orders is Wednesday, April 12.

The Garden Club is hosting upcoming events at the North Oaks Community Room (100 Village Center Drive) and invites the entire community to learn about the following topic:

- Wednesday, April 26 6:30 pm: Learn how to wake up your garden with Spring Into Summer, a presentation by Ramsey County Master Gardeners.

To RSVP for either of these events, please send an email to nancygardenhans@yahoo.com.

Happy spring planning and planting from the North Oaks Garden Club!

Summer Hours Begin at Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste and Yard Waste Sites

Get ready for spring cleaning – expanded summer hours for Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste and Yard Waste sites begin Saturday, April 1st. To find collection hours and locations, visit [Home - Ramsey Recycles Ramsey Recycles](#)

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission / City Council Training Session** – Thursday, April 13th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, Phone: 651-792-7750

For your convenience, permit and license applications and other business can be submitted to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and processed remotely without the need to make a trip into the office.

Contact the City with any questions.

**** Connect with us! “Follow” the [City of North Oaks Facebook page](#) for the most current City updates.**

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/22/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Road Restrictions to be Lifted Monday – 4.24.2023

We have received notice from the Minnesota Department of Transportation that road restrictions will be lifted effective Monday, April 24th at 12:01 a.m. Thanks for your continued cooperation until that time!

If you have contractors that have been waiting for road restrictions to lift, please remind them they can apply for building, plumbing, mechanical and septic permits via the [City Hall permit portal](#). (Exterior work also needs to be submitted for review through the Homeowners Association via nohoa@nohoa.org.)

Earth Day, 2023 – Consider Local cleanup of our Community

Saturday, April 22 is Earth Day! This is an annual event celebrated around the world to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Consider grabbing gloves, trash bag and taking the family out to pick up trash that has surfaced within our community after the winter snow melt. Key areas that frequently see trash blown into our community is near any of the North Oaks entrances, as well as the Village Center Road / retail center brush areas. Reward your young helpers with a stop at Dairy Queen - a win-win for the earth and kids!

For other ideas on how to recognize and celebrate the earth on this day, and every day, visit: [Earth Day 2023 - Earth Day](#).

Happy National Volunteer Appreciation Week!

The City of North Oaks staff would like to thank our community's many volunteers. Volunteers make our Community such a special place to live and help maintain the vital, natural community we all love.

Special thanks to City Council, Planning Commission, Natural Resource Commission; as well as all the volunteers and committees at the North Oaks Homeowners Association, North Oaks Women's Guilds, Garden Club, Villagers, Social Club, Hill Farm Historical Society, League of Women's Voters, Boy Scouts, schools, VLAWMO helpers, community organizations and all those who step in to volunteer at events within North Oaks.

We appreciate the time and talent you give to our community!

Mass Communications / Entrance Camera Demo's

Thursday night, Councilor Shuman brought forth Everbridge Communications to demonstrate a mass communications tool, and Convirgent to demonstrate a license plate camera system for entrances. These tools are under review to determine if our Community could benefit from such products and the cost involved. Those interested in viewing the session, can watch it [HERE](#).

SAFETY

Local Scam Alert – Be Aware

Deputy Lassegard reports a huge uptick in scams that are being perpetrated by the same two local suspects.

They follow a common script where they approach the victim in a parking lot and tell them that their vehicle has broken down and request to use the victim's phone to call a tow truck. When the victim allows them to use their phone, the suspects unknowingly transfer money from the victim's CashApp/Venmo/Paypal/etc. account into their own personal account.

If this happens, call 911 immediately to report the incident.

COMMUNITY

Garden Club Special Event

Please join the North Oaks Garden Club for a presentation by Ramsey County Master Gardeners Karen Randall and Susie DeShon as they share their experiences in, "Turning Spring into Summer" on **Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 pm** in the North Oaks Community Room at 100 Village Center Drive.

In this presentation, you will learn about the best way to "wake up" your garden, with information about what to do for your garden and landscape between March and August. Topics will include annuals, perennials, woody plants, pest control, and other best practices.

Refreshments will be served, and time will be allotted for audience questions.

The North Oaks Garden Club is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Locking Mailbox Order

The locking mailbox order has been placed, and mailboxes are expected to arrive in 2-3 weeks. The City will reach out to those who have placed an order to pick up their mailbox when they are ready. For anyone still looking to purchase, there will be 5 extra Mail Manager and 4 extra Package Masters available for purchase. Contact the City Office at 651-792-7750 if you would like to reserve one for purchase.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Free State Park Entrance on Earth Day

On Saturday, April 22, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas in honor of Earth Day. This is the first of four free park days for the year – additional dates are scheduled for June 10, September 9 and November 24.

To learn more about state parks and recreation areas and find one near you, visit: [ParkFinder | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Report Fish Die-Offs to DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages Minnesotans to contact the state duty officer if they see evidence of a fish die-off in a lake or stream. Fish die-offs can result from a variety of natural and human causes.

“People can help by reporting fish die-offs right away,” DNR Limmology Consultant Tom Burri said. “These reports alert state agencies to the situation and help us determine appropriate next steps.”

To report fish die-offs, people should call the Minnesota duty officer at 651 - 649 - 5451 or 800 - 422 - 0798 (the officer line is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week). An early report allows timely water and fish sampling or other response actions, if needed. It’s especially helpful to know what sizes and types of fish people see in a fish die-off.

In early spring, the retreat of lake and stream ice can sometimes leave behind fish that died during ice cover, commonly referred to as winterkill. When snow and ice cover a lake, sunlight reaching aquatic plants is limited. The plants, in turn, reduce the amount of oxygen they produce. If vegetation dies from lack of sunlight or other cause, the plants start to decompose, which uses the limited oxygen that is dissolved in the water. If oxygen depletion becomes severe enough, fish die.

In mid-spring and summer, fish die-offs are often the result of warming water and opportunistic infections that spread in fish populations that are already stressed after the spawning season. Species commonly observed in these die-offs include sunfish, crappies and bullheads, and, occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

When die-offs of wild fish are the result of disease issues, the affected fish tend to be of a single species and size range. By contrast, when die-offs include multiple species and size ranges, human activity is more likely to be the cause.

Human causes of fish kills can include water discharged at high temperatures; discharges or spills of toxic chemicals, including pesticides and fertilizers; manure runoff; and low oxygen levels in a lake resulting from storm water that runs off urban or rural landscapes. Often, there are multiple causes contributing to fish deaths.

More information on fish kills is available on the [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/fisheries/fishkills.html) (mndnr.gov/fisheries/fishkills.html).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Highlights from the Special Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing – April 12th

- Commissioner Nick Sandell was appointed as Vice Chair for the Planning Commission.

- Planning Commission recommended approval for a comprehensive plan amendment to amend City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan to add additional properties within the Red Forest Way South development for future municipal sewer and water service. City staff will explore this issue further with the Met Council, and City Council will consider the proposal for final approval at a future meeting.
- Planning Commission approved Resolution No. 2023-1 that determined that the application for property subdivision (Preliminary Plan Approval) for Subdivision of RLS 640, Tract R, Red Forest Way South Phase 2 is complete. The application will be considered for compliance and recommendation for approval or denial at a future meeting.
- The Commission adopted a new annual calendar that adds additional meeting dates to the calendar. View the updated meeting schedule on the City calendar [HERE](#).
- Planning Commission gave approval for City Staff to bring several ordinance amendments to the Commission for consideration at upcoming meetings. Priority amendments would be updates to the Planning Commission process, building height requirements, grading requirements and updating the zoning map to be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive plan and to some inconsistencies and errors.

The full Special Planning Commission meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Highlights from Special City Council / Planning Commission Training

City Staff conducted a training session with City Council and Planning Commission members.

Attorney Nason spoke on a variety of topics including:

- City structure, open meeting law guidelines, conditions for holding a closed meeting, Data Practices Act, what constitutes conflict of interest, guidelines for public hearings, and methods to address nuisance issues.

City Planner Lindahl spoke on the standard phases of the Municipal planning process including:

- Overall goals for planning process, importance of guiding documents such as the comprehensive plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances, the Conditional use permit and Variance process, and the importance of the 60-day rule.

This training session can be viewed under the City Council workshop session [HERE](#). (skip to 18 min. mark for start of the meeting).

Highlights from the City Council Meeting – April 13th

- Consent agenda approved including City financials, arborist and mechanical Licenses, City Council meeting minutes of 2.27.23 and 3.9.23, and the annual contract with the Human Society of Woodbury as the resource for Ramsey County Sheriff Animal Control.
- Sheriff Deputy Lassegard shared his monthly report, along with guidance to keep red mailbox flags down to secure outgoing checks, removing food sources to keep bears/coyote away, and noted the red flag warning for no burning at this time. If there is a vulnerable adult in the community please let him know at Matt.Lassegard@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US. His full report can be found in the 4.13.2023 City Council meeting packet.
- Fire Chief Tim Boehkle provided an update on year 2022 fire department alarm calls and future plans. There were 581 calls in North Oaks last year, with 75% of them EMS calls. There are 85 part-time fire fighters serving the cities of North Oaks, Shoreview, and Arden Hills as part of the joint service agreement. They are seeing a demand for staffing among multiple agencies, and they are looking to hire additional full-time staff to cover gaps. Discussions will continue regarding employee retention as well as long-term funding of resources and stations.

- Geoffrey Mass from Ramsey County presented on their services and imagery used by the Ramsey County assessor's office. They are requesting of Council and NOHOA, to consider allowing them to take street view imagery in our community. Follow up conversations to take place regarding concerns of security of data, who would have access, public security, authority and if a true need for this information.
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) presented on the upcoming Wilkinson Water Quality project. Council authorized the City Administrator to formally draft a letter of approval of the project.
- Council approved lowest bid for the Charley Lake Townhomes Association Shoreview water connection project. Authorized City to move forward discussions with contractor and potentially start construction in the fall/winter 2023. There was discussion of funding cost, size of pipe and potential for connecting other homes in future.
- Two bids have been received from Engineer firms to put together a North Oaks Master Infrastructure Plan looking at the long term needs of the community. The goal is to have all firms that solicited bids present to Council prior to the next May Council meeting.
- Council authorized a switch to from H.R. Green to Sambatek as the City Engineer.

The full City Council meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Public Safety tips from Deputy Lassegard

FOR CURRENT THEFT, SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE/PERSON/VULNERABLE ADULT

- Please call 911 first.
- Deputy weekly schedule intentionally varies. I do like phone calls for follow up information to reported issues. Deputy Matt's Cell phone: 651-448-1890.

HOME NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

- Bear / Coyote season – no bear reported yet, but take precautions to reduce food sources. (see Reminder section below)
- Consider being a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain
- Council Member Shuman + MHOA Ted Risdall spearheading efforts
- E-MAIL Crimeprevention@RamseyCounty.US
- Phone 651-266-7315 or GOOGLE Ramsey County Public Safety Services

FRAUD DURING TAX SEASON AND BEYOND

- Mail theft: Consider not using your mailbox red flag. Take checks to post office blue mailboxes.
- IRS does not call citizens for payment
- If "government agency" or "business" ask/require Crypto Currency or Gift Cards for any transaction - Hang up.

146 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN PRIOR MONTH

- NOTABLE
 - Suspicious activity at Aspen and North Deep Lake RD, Vulnerable adult call at 5919 Centerville RD, Death (natural causes) 5919 Centerville RD, Theft at Walgreens, Theft from auto turned Felony Fraud at 5959 Centerville, Overweight vehicles
 - 25 Traffic stops

Public Safety Community Conversation

Ramsey County Commissioner Nicole Frethem will be holding a public safety conversation on Wednesday, April 26th at the Shoreview Library (4560 Victoria St. N) from 6:00-8:00pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

VLAWMO Watershed at a Glance Resource

The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) has released their annual Watershed at a Glance. This document provides a snapshot of some of the main projects from 2022-2023. Check out what they've been up to here: [VLAWMO :: Annual Watershed at a Glance and Water Monitoring Report](#)

Ramsey County Recycling – Compost Bins Save \$20

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling compost bins for \$76 plus tax this year. Ramsey County residents can receive a \$20 discount.

Order online at [RecycleMinnesota.org](https://www.recycleminnesota.org) and enter promo code "Ramsey" to receive the discounted price. Or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident. Pick up your pre-ordered bin on Saturday, April 29 in Maplewood. Find additional sales at [RecycleMinnesota.org](https://www.recycleminnesota.org).

Northeast Metro Climate Action Movie and Panel Discussion Event

Northeast Metro Climate Action will be hosting a virtual April event about plastic and climate change. First, watch the movie anytime from April 17 to April 26. Then join them on Zoom on April 26th at 7:00 p.m. for a panel discussion. To register and receive a link to watch the film, visit:

<https://bit.ly/NEMCA0426>

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Planning Commission** – Tentative (as needed), May 10th, and 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/28/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Thank You Lake Johanna Fire Department!

Thank you to the firefighters from Lino Lakes, Centennial, SBM, Hugo, Forest Lake, Lake Johanna, and MN DNR Forestry resources for their role in addressing a large grass fire near the intersection of Ash St/County Road J and Holly Dr. in Lino Lakes this week (across the street from the Rapp Farm development). Fantastic coordination by all parties with the DNR both from the ground and helicopters to quickly get it under control.

A pelican was stuck on a rope in a pond in North Oaks this week. Thanks Lake Johanna Fire Department for floating out in a canoe to get him back to shore and free him. It's the big and little things we are grateful for!

Check out the [Lake Johanna Facebook page](#) for pictures from both incidents.

Planning Commission Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 10th

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of North Oaks will hold a Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN at which meeting it will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the **application by North Oaks Company, LLC for Subdivision (Preliminary Plan/Plat Approval) for the Southern Portion of Site K, Red Forest Way South Phase 2 for the property legally described as Tract R, Registered land Survey No. 640, Ramsey County, MN.**

This meeting notice has been published the Shoreview Press, with agenda packet available on the City website 72 hours prior. Refer to the full [meeting notice](#) for options to participate and provide feedback on the application.

Sewer / Water Bill – Escrow Fund

For residents on City water and/or sewer, you may have noticed an increase in the escrow fee on your recent quarterly invoice. The escrow fund includes a charge of \$30 for sewer and \$45 for water per quarter. Residents utilizing services through Shoreview and White Bear Township are charged the same. The escrow fund is designed to pay for regular maintenance of infrastructure such as lift stations, pumps, piping, etc. After a Utility Rate Study was conducted and approved by Council, it was determined that the City is consistently underfunded in this area and needed to increase rates to cover these expenses. Funding this escrow account in small quarterly intervals should eliminate the need for any large unexpected special assessments to residents in the future.

Road Restrictions have been Lifted

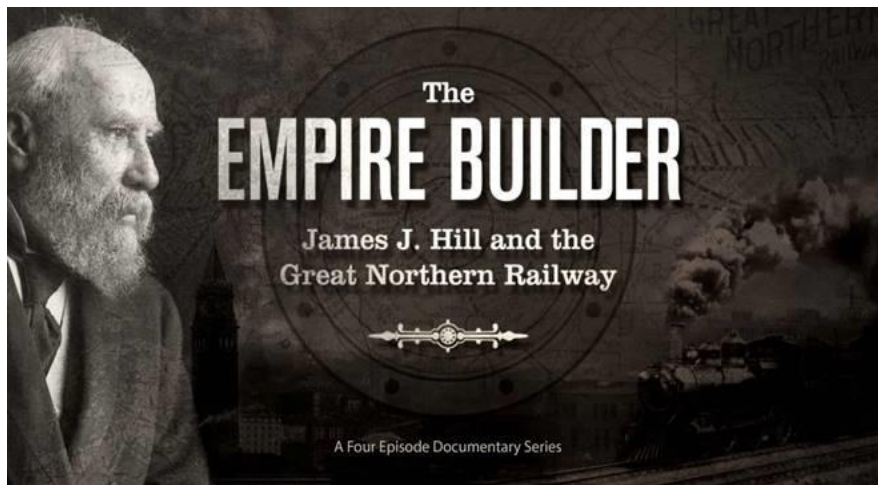
A reminder of the news many have been waiting for – we received notice from the Minnesota Department of Transportation that ground conditions allowed for road restrictions to be lifted effective this past Monday, April 24th.

COMMUNITY

Hill Farm Historical Society Spring Dinner is Coming!

The Hill Farm Historical Society invites you to the Annual Spring Dinner, May 19, 2023 at the North Oaks Golf Club. The social hour will begin at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. Following the dinner our guest speaker, Stephen Sadis, Producer/Director at Great Northern Filmworks and Sadis Filmworks, will give us an update, and show a portion of the new recently released Documentary - James J Hill Empire builder. If you attended our 2018 Spring Dinner you were introduced to Stephen and his major undertaking, producing a documentary on one of America's unsung heroes. Through lots of hard work and in spite of COVID-induced delays, the 4 hour - 4-part documentary was completed last fall.

A limited number of DVDs will be available for sale at the dinner. Residents were mailed an invitation with information on how to register for the event. For questions, please visit our web site at www.hillfarmhistoricalsociety.com or call Judy Ohannesian at 612-280-9305.



SAFETY

Cold Water Safety

With the lake ice gone, it is important to remember that the cold water in lakes, rivers and ponds is very dangerous and unexpected falls can quickly turn tragic due to the impact of cold water on the body.

When boaters and paddlers are on early season open water, they should:

- Wear a foam-filled life jacket (inflatable life jackets might not fully inflate when the water is cold). Anyone on the ice should wear a foam life jacket or float coat and carry ice picks.
- Ensure their watercraft is registered and equipped with proper safety equipment, and that all equipment is functioning properly.
- Distribute weight evenly and abide by manufacturers' weight limits to reduce the likelihood of falling overboard.
- Have a means of communication and ensure someone knows where they're going and when they plan to return.
- Watch the weather to avoid shifting winds or storms.

For more information about staying safe on and around cold water, visit the [DNR's cold water safety page](http://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html) (mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html).

Spring burning restrictions set to begin in Ramsey County May 1st

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is again restricting open burning due to increased wildfire risk due to predicted warm temperatures and dry conditions in central Minnesota. Beginning

Monday, May 1st, the restrictions apply in the following counties: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington.

The DNR will not issue permits for the open burning brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted. Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before vegetation greens up, therefore spring burning restrictions help to reduce the number of wildfires, especially those caused by debris burning.

Please consider using alternatives to burning for disposing of yard waste, such as composting, chipping, or taking brush to a collection site. For more information, visit the [composting for woodland owners page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debris-composting.html) (mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debris-composting.html). The Ramsey County Compost site can also accept many forms of brush. Refer [HERE for locations](#), what is accepted and times for drop off.

For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the [statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/burnrestrictions) (mndnr.gov/burnrestrictions).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mosquito Control season has begun!

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) will be conducting surveillance and treatment activities in our community to reduce the risk of disease and annoyance in an environmentally-sensitive manner. Each year field staff at MMCD monitors and treats wetlands that breed mosquitoes with a fleet of trucks and helicopters. Many of the seasonal staff begin working in April and you may notice the green or white trucks with the MMCD logo or staff on bikes or on foot wearing brightly colored “Mosquito Control” shirts.

Some of the activities that MMCD may be doing include:

- Wetland surveillance - determining if ponds or swamps have mosquito larvae present.
- Catch basin surveillance - pulling off grates and inspecting neighborhood catch basins to determine if mosquito larvae are present.
- Ground larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland with a hand spreader or backpack.
- Helicopter larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland via helicopter.
- Catch basin treatments - applying control materials to neighborhood catch basins.
- Setting or collecting traps - surveillance helps MMCD determine where and what types of mosquitoes are active.

View more details on their website: <https://mmcd.org/2023/04/20/press-release-mosquito-control-season-start-2023/>. If there is helicopter activity scheduled, it can also be found on this website.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Happy National Volunteer Appreciation Week!

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Special thanks to City Council, Planning Commission, Natural Resource Commission; as well as all the volunteers and committees at the North Oaks Homeowners Association, North Oaks Women's Guilds, Garden Club, Villagers, Social Club, Hill Farm Historical Society, League of Women's Voters, Boy Scouts, schools, VLAWMO helpers, community organizations and all those who step in to volunteer at events within North Oaks. We appreciate the time and talent you give to our community!

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More information on fish kills and why they may occur is available on the [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/fisheries/fishkills.html) (mndnr.gov/fisheries/fishkills.html).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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- **City Council** – Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/5/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Watermain Breakage Rapp Farm

Earlier today the looped watermain sprung a leak near County Road J in the Rapp Farm subdivision. Crews from White Bear Township and a contractor were on scene and repaired the leak. The system is now fully operational. Thanks to the crews for their quick response to get the system back online.

Special City Council Meeting – Strategy Introductions – Tuesday, May 9th

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the City Council of North Oaks will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

The purpose of the meeting is: Discussion and possible action on infrastructure master planning proposals. Meet and greet various engineering firms.

Refer to [meeting notices on the City website](#).

Planning Commission Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 10th

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of North Oaks will hold a Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN at which meeting it will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the **application by North Oaks Company, LLC for Subdivision (Preliminary Plan/Plat Approval) for the Southern Portion of Site K, Red Forest Way South Phase 2 for the property legally described as Tract R, Registered land Survey No. 640, Ramsey County, MN.**

This meeting notice has been published the Shoreview Press, with agenda packet available on the City website 72 hours prior. Refer to the full [meeting notice](#) for options to participate and provide feedback on the application.

Lake Johanna Fire Department – Hiring Part-Time Firefighters

The Lake Johanna Fire Department is accepting applications until August 1, 2023 for part-time firefighters. LJFD provides Fire, Rescue and EMS response to the City of Arden Hills, North Oaks, and Shoreview, covering 31 square miles and servicing a population of 42,000+ residents. For more information and an application, email apply@ljfd.org. Questions? Call 651-415-2100.

White Bear/Shoreview Water Sprinkling and Irrigation Restrictions – Begin May 15th

There are several sources of water service that is provided to those in our North Oaks community. If your home is on Shoreview or White Bear Lake Township water, please abide by any watering restrictions that are in place for watering lawns. Both White Bear Township and Shoreview may assess penalties for violation of their watering restrictions.

Shoreview water restrictions are in effect from May 15th – September 15th and allows irrigation for even numbered house addresses on even numbered calendar days before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. Odd numbered house addresses may irrigate only on odd numbered calendar days before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. [Learn more](#) about watering restrictions for Shoreview Water.

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For those on private wells, for most efficient watering and preservation of resources, we encourage you to water your lawn during the overnight hours to limit evaporation during the hot summer season and make best use of our natural resources.

COMMUNITY

News from the North Oaks Garden Club

We have extra hanging baskets!

The North Oaks Garden Club will have extra hanging baskets for sale on **Monday, May 8 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm** at the Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle). If you didn't place a preorder (or if you placed a preorder but wished you had ordered more hanging baskets), here is your opportunity to easily beautify your outdoor spaces. Our hanging baskets would also make perfect Mother's Day gifts! Please bring cash or a checkbook. First come, first served on varieties.

Preorder pickup reminders:

The North Oaks Garden Club thanks community members who placed preorders this spring and would like to remind customers of the following pick-up dates and times:

Hanging baskets (front page of order form): **MONDAY, May 8, 3:00 – 6:00 pm**

All other plants (back page of order form): **THURSDAY, May 11, 3:00 – 7:00 pm**

If you have any questions, please send an email to nogardenclub@gmail.com

Thank you to the community for its continued support of the North Oaks Garden Club, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

Submitted by the North Oaks Garden Club

Night to Unite

Mark your calendars, get together with your neighbors to make plans for participating in this annual public safety event. Register your event online with the Sheriff's office at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2023>

Registration helps the Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments with scheduling visits to your event! Registration deadline is Friday, July 14, 2023. Event planning tools are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's website. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.

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producing a documentary on one of America's unsung heroes. Through lots of hard work and in spite of COVID-induced delays, the 4 hour - 4-part documentary was completed last fall.

A limited number of DVDs will be available for sale at the dinner. Residents were mailed an invitation with information on how to register for the event. For questions, please visit our web site at www.hillfarmhistoricalsociety.com or call Judy Ohannesian at 612-280-9305.

SAFETY

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

From the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain Newsletter:

Each year, one in five adults in the United States will experience some form of mental illness. Even though mental health conditions are common and treatable like physical health conditions, many people are still afraid to talk about them due to feelings of shame, stigmas, or fear of discrimination.

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Each of us can play a role in promoting good mental health by reaching out virtually to a friend, family member or a loved one. Ramsey County provides a variety of mental health resources. Visit [Mental Health Services & Crisis | Ramsey County](#) for detailed information.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

May Lawn Mowing Resources from the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization

You may have heard talk in recent years about No-Mow may and how leaving your yard alone in the spring can be beneficial to pollinators. However, the science on this strategy is developing, and new ideas are emerging for how to support spring pollinators and your yard at the same time. The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization has put together a resource to help navigate these ideas and develop a strategy that works for you. For more information, visit: [VLAWMO :: Slow Mow May: The Balanced Way](#)

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Thank You Lake Johanna Fire Department!

Thank you to the firefighters from Lino Lakes, Centennial, SBM, Hugo, Forest Lake, Lake Johanna, and MN DNR Forestry resources for their role in addressing a large grass fire near the intersection of Ash St/County Road J and Holly Dr. in Lino Lakes this week (across the street from the Rapp Farm development). Fantastic coordination by all parties with the DNR both from the ground and helicopters to quickly get it under control.

A pelican was stuck on a rope in a pond in North Oaks this week. Thanks Lake Johanna Fire Department for floating out in a canoe to get him back to shore and free him. It's the big and little things we are grateful for!

Check out the [Lake Johanna Facebook page](#) for pictures from both incidents.

Sewer / Water Bill – Escrow Fund

For residents on City water and/or sewer, you may have noticed an increase in the escrow fee on your recent quarterly invoice. The escrow fund includes a charge of \$30 for sewer and \$45 for water per quarter. Residents utilizing services through Shoreview and White Bear Township are charged the same. The escrow fund is designed to pay for regular maintenance of infrastructure such as lift stations, pumps, piping, etc. After a Utility Rate Study was conducted and approved by Council, it was determined that the City is consistently underfunded in this area and needed to increase rates to cover these expenses. Funding this escrow account in small quarterly intervals should eliminate the need for any large unexpected special assessments to residents in the future.

Road Restrictions have been Lifted

A reminder of the news many have been waiting for – we received notice from the Minnesota Department of Transportation that ground conditions allowed for road restrictions to be lifted effective this past Monday, April 24th.

Cold Water Safety

With the lake ice gone, it is important to remember that the cold water in lakes, rivers and ponds is very dangerous and unexpected falls can quickly turn tragic due to the impact of cold water on the body.

When boaters and paddlers are on early season open water, they should:

- Wear a foam-filled life jacket (inflatable life jackets might not fully inflate when the water is cold). Anyone on the ice should wear a foam life jacket or float coat and carry ice picks.
- Ensure their watercraft is registered and equipped with proper safety equipment, and that all equipment is functioning properly.
- Distribute weight evenly and abide by manufacturers' weight limits to reduce the likelihood of falling overboard.
- Have a means of communication and ensure someone knows where they're going and when they plan to return.
- Watch the weather to avoid shifting winds or storms.

For more information about staying safe on and around cold water, visit the [DNR's cold water safety page](http://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html) (mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html).

Spring burning restrictions set to begin in Ramsey County May 1st

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is again restricting open burning due to increased wildfire risk due to predicted warm temperatures and dry conditions in central Minnesota. Beginning

Monday, May 1st, the restrictions apply in the following counties: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington.

The DNR will not issue permits for the open burning brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted. Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before vegetation greens up, therefore spring burning restrictions help to reduce the number of wildfires, especially those caused by debris burning.

Please consider using alternatives to burning for disposing of yard waste, such as composting, chipping, or taking brush to a collection site. For more information, visit the [composting for woodland owners page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debris-composting.html) (mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debris-composting.html). The Ramsey County Compost site can also accept many forms of brush. Refer [HERE for locations](#), what is accepted and times for drop off.

For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the [statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/burnrestrictions) (mndnr.gov/burnrestrictions).

Mosquito Control season has begun!

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) will be conducting surveillance and treatment activities in our community to reduce the risk of disease and annoyance in an environmentally-sensitive manner. Each year field staff at MMCD monitors and treats wetlands that breed mosquitoes with a fleet of trucks and helicopters. Many of the seasonal staff begin working in April and you may notice the green or white trucks with the MMCD logo or staff on bikes or on foot wearing brightly colored "Mosquito Control" shirts.

Some of the activities that MMCD may be doing include:

- Wetland surveillance - determining if ponds or swamps have mosquito larvae present.
- Catch basin surveillance - pulling off grates and inspecting neighborhood catch basins to determine if mosquito larvae are present.
- Ground larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland with a hand spreader or backpack.
- Helicopter larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland via helicopter.
- Catch basin treatments - applying control materials to neighborhood catch basins.
- Setting or collecting traps - surveillance helps MMCD determine where and what types of mosquitoes are active.

View more details on their website: <https://mmcd.org/2023/04/20/press-release-mosquito-control-season-start-2023/>. If there is helicopter activity scheduled, it can also be found on this website.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Special City Council Meeting** – May 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – May 10th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

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*** Connect with us! “Follow” the [City of North Oaks Facebook page](#) for the most current City updates.*

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/12/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council Meeting – Long Term Strategy Introductions – Tuesday, May 9th

Highlights from the Special City Council meeting include:

- Engineering Firms H.R. Green, TKDA, and WSB presented to the City Council on their proposals for creating a master utility and infrastructure long-term plan for our community.
- A consistent set of questions was asked to each firm.
- Two other Engineer Firms are expected to present their proposals in late May.
- A joint meeting with NOHOA will be scheduled once the firms under consideration have been narrowed down.
- Informational session only, there were no motions or decisions were made.

Planning Commission Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 10th

Highlights Include:

- Commissioners reviewed the Preliminary Plat subdivision application for 17 single family home sites known as Red Forest Way South. There were no resident comments during the public hearing. The application was recommended for approval up to the City Council.
- Commissioners will review two Ordinances as part of a Public Hearing to take place at the next Planning Commission meeting on June 22nd. The proposed changes include revisions to: 1) Chapter 34 Planning Commission composition and responsibilities, and 2) Chapter 151 Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. The proposed red-lined changes can be viewed as part of the 5.10.2023 [Planning Commission Packet](#).
- Commissioners agreed to shift the next regular Planning Commission meeting up one week to June 22nd to enable all Commissioners to attend.

Residents can watch the Planning Commission meeting [HERE](#), however it has been noted that there was an issue with the audio volume being low on the Broadcast recording. The conversation can be heard more clearly on the zoom recording [HERE](#).

Highlights from the Regular City Council meeting Thursday, May 11th

- Bill Long from the NOHOA Board gave an update. The NOHOA Board is in the final stages of analysis on proposals from management companies to take over some responsibilities for the Homeowner's Association. They are down to two companies for consideration and they hope to have a decision by June 1st. They also have Summerfest coming up for the community on June 3rd.
- Deputy Lassegard gave a report on crime in the area, including financial scams under the guise of borrowing a phone to call for assistance for a broken-down car, catalytic converter thefts, and some solicitation trespassing. He has been noticing some more speeding as the weather has turned warmer, and encouraged drivers to maintain safe speeds for the safety of the community. He also gave a brief report on a burglary that occurred in the 100 block of West Pleasant Lake Road. He noted that it is an ongoing investigation, and clarified that there was no drug activity at the scene. Crime Prevention Deputy Alicia Ouellette from Ramsey County Crime Prevention joined Deputy Lassegard to give a report on the number of burglaries in recent years, noting that there were 5 in 2022 and 5 in 2021. She stated that some of this comes from theft at the job sites of new homes being built, where thieves are looking for metals or

dumpster diving. She emphasized that there is no pattern of snowbirds being targeted specifically, but encouraged residents to be cautious when leaving their homes unattended. Residents can proactively contact the Ramsey County Sheriff's office to request "House Checks" free of charge from Community Affairs volunteers, work with private home watch companies, and communicate with neighbors when they plan to be away. Deputy Ouellete also added that Ramsey County dispatch has also added a social worker who can assist with mental health issues from any calls. City Councilors requested information be shared more regularly and in a timelier manner with residents in order to keep them better informed on crime in the area.

- Consistent with the Federal and State Government and surrounding cities, City Council voted to terminate the local emergency declaration that was adopted during COVID.
- The 2022 Audit was accepted into record with no notable issues.
- White Bear Township Water Memorandum of Understanding was discussed dealing with the White Bear Lake water lawsuit.
- City Council voted to allow the release of the existing letters of credit and cash escrow to combine into a single new letter of credit as part of the East Oaks PDA.
- Mayor Wolter presented an idea for a quarterly newsletter that would be sent to residents via postal mail. This newsletter would include updates from the City, NOHOA and other local stakeholders such as the Hill Farm Historical Society, the Golf Club, etc. This piece would be paid for by sponsors, although would not include advertisements. Council voted to allow the Mayor and City Administrator Kress to move forward with developing this idea.

Residents can watch the City Council meeting [HERE](#).

Carp Removal Activity – This weekend

There is scheduled carp removal activity occurring this weekend. The Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Association (VLAWMO) and their authorized contractor Carp Solutions will have two individuals working in the area of the Crescent Lane gate / boardwalk / trail. Carp removal efforts are part of ongoing efforts to improve water quality.

This activity is authorized by the City and North Oaks Homeowners Association. Depending on timing of the carp aggregation, they may need to briefly access the trail overnight, and then return in the morning for removal. Please give these individuals space to work if you see them on the trail.

Last Week for Signup: Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 25th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. This is a great opportunity for a 1-time easy pickup of all the brush/tree limbs that have gathered from the winter. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 25th, 2023. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue the following day. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$140, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

Budget Tree Service will be doing the work, with the assistance of the City Forester to answer resident questions. For ease of pick up, we ask that branches be placed "end side" towards the street along the road and not under any power lines. If you are interested in signing up for this service, please [review the letter for pricing detail and instructions, and return the waiver](#) to the City office via email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or stopping **by the City office by May 23rd**.

For those 15 residents already signed up for pickup, you'll receive a reminder / confirmation email on Monday May 22nd – a few days prior to the pickup. If you do NOT receive this reminder email and have sent in your form, please contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 to make sure you are on the list.

COMMUNITY

Reminder: No Motorized Vehicles on Trails

Please remember that motorized vehicles such as scooters and motor bikes are not allowed on North Oaks trails. Bicycles and E-Bikes are permitted. For questions about trail use, contact the North Oaks Homeowner's Association at 651-792-7765 or nohoa@nohoa.org.

Free household hazardous waste collection May 13

Ramsey County, in partnership with White Bear Township, is hosting a one-day household hazardous waste collection **9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, May 13** at Otter Lake Elementary School (1401 County Road H2, White Bear Township). This collection is free and open to residents of Ramsey, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott and Washington counties.

Accepted items include antifreeze, batteries (all types), bug killers, cell phones, cleaners, fluorescent lights, gasoline, mercury thermometers, paint, propane tanks, repellents, used oil and filters, weed killer and more.

Learn more about household hazardous waste collection at RamseyRecycles.com/HHW.

North Oaks Rummage Sale Drop off – Coming Soon!

The 2023 SPRING DROP-OFF will take place **Saturday, May 20, 2023**, 9AM – 2PM @ West Recreation Center, 14 West Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks. Please only donate items in condition that you would give to a friend. If we can't sell it or pass it on, we must pay disposal fees. Drop-off volunteers have the right to refuse items.

FURNITURE DONATIONS:

Furniture donations are greatly appreciated. Please call/text Jennifer Martini, at 651-231-5825 *no later than May 15th* to schedule a pick-up on May 20th. Pick-up of furniture only (just in North Oaks).

Refer to the [Rummage Sale website](#) for complete details on what items are accepted.

SAFETY

May 15-21 – National Police Week

May 15-21 is National Police Week. This week is dedicated to honoring the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty. It is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, and to remember their commitment to keeping people safe. A special thank you to the North Oaks Deputy Matt Lassegard for keeping our community safe!

Pedestrian Safety

From the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain News:

Pedestrian safety is a responsibility shared by drivers and pedestrians. When drivers maintain safe speeds and practice other safe driving behaviors, safer walking environments are created for you, your loved ones, and others in your community. When pedestrians maintain awareness of their surroundings and practice safe behaviors it helps everyone.

Know the Basics—Pedestrian Safety

8 Safety Tips for Drivers

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

8 Walking Safety Tips

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation - get up, get out and get moving.

COVID-19 – MN Department of Health

While the official Federal and State Emergency Declarations have ended for COVID-19 pandemic, there is still available resources and data on current situation. Information can be found on the MN Department of Health Website with weekly situation updates. [Situation Update for COVID-19 - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/covid19/situationupdate/)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Fishing Opener

Minnesota Fishing Opener is May 13th! Although fishing is not permitted in North Oaks lakes due to DNR regulations, there are many nearby lakes where you can drop a line. For more information about fishing regulations and locations, visit: [Fishing | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/)

DNR urges people to Leave Deer Fawns Alone

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks that people avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns, which are born around this time of year.

Most fawns are born in mid-May to mid-June, and fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers forage watchfully nearby.

Be assured deer fawns are likely fine even if they look abandoned or fragile. Even if the fawn is known to be wounded or abandoned due to car strike or animal attack, do not transport it without talking to a wildlife rehabilitator. For more information about what to do when people find fawns or other species of young wild animals, visit the [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/orphaned-wildlife.html) (mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/orphaned-wildlife.html).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Watermain Breakage Rapp Farm

Earlier today the looped watermain sprung a leak near County Road J in the Rapp Farm subdivision. Crews from White Bear Township and a contractor were on scene and repaired the leak. The system is now fully operational. Thanks to the crews for their quick response to get the system back online.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/19/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Brush Pick up – LAST CALL: Sign up by Tuesday

Any residents wanting to take part in the brush pick up next Thursday, May 25th must **submit the waiver to the City by Tuesday**. Take the opportunity to clean up your yard this weekend of over growth. Click [HERE](#) for complete details and the form to be emailed to the City at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. It can also be dropped off at City Hall 9 – 4 p.m. Monday or Tuesday.

Coming Soon – City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Sat. June 24th

The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 5th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 24 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

Residents will be able to drop off a wide range of recyclable items, including lamps, light bulbs, household and automotive batteries, computers, hard drives, TV monitors and other electronics, mattresses, box springs, residential appliances, and ink/toner cartridges. See below for a link to the complete list of what items can be accepted. A paper shredder will again be available; up to four banker-sized boxes per household, please. Clean scrap metal will also be accepted this year (no attached plastic, wood, etc.)

There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE. Look for the coupon in the North Oaks News or City website that entitles drop off of one item for free; one coupon per household, please.

For questions, please email the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750. A complete list of accepted items and coupon can be found [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

North Oaks Rummage Sale Drop off – TOMORROW!

The 2023 SPRING DROP-OFF will take place **Saturday, May 20, 2023**, 9AM – 2PM @ West Recreation Center, 14 West Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks. Please only donate items in condition that you would give to a friend. If we can't sell it or pass it on, we must pay disposal fees. Drop-off volunteers have the right to refuse items.

FURNITURE DONATIONS:

Furniture donations are greatly appreciated. Please call/text Jennifer Martini, at 651-231-5825 *no later than May 15th* to schedule a pick-up on May 20th. Pick-up of furniture only (just in North Oaks).

Refer to the [Rummage Sale website](#) for complete details on what items are accepted.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Tips for reducing Mosquito Bites

Mosquito season will be here before you know it. Here are some good tips that can help you and your family enjoy the outdoors with fewer itchy bumps. The Natural Resource Commission has outlined 4 keys ways to help reduce those pesky Minnesota mosquitos. Check it out [HERE](#).

VLAWMO Good Neighbor Guide

The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization has delivered copies of the Good Neighbor Guide to the City Office for interested residents. Check out this handy guide on how to handle turf care, yard waste disposal, smart salting and more in a water friendly way. The guide is also available online at [VLAWMO :: Introducing the Good Neighbor Guide](#)

State park Activities

From Minnesota DNR

In advance of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is highlighting recreational opportunities at state parks, trails and recreation areas throughout Minnesota. The DNR's [summer activities guide](#) (mndnr.gov/summerguide) is a great place to start planning a state parks and trails adventure. The guide lists warm weather activities for people of all ages and interests. "Many people know about common activities at state parks and trails like hiking and camping, but we offer so much more," said Ann Pierce, the DNR's Parks and Trails Division director. "We encourage people to explore the DNR website to learn about all the activities available within the state parks and trails system."

Nature walks and campfire talks

State parks offer events and programs led by interpretive naturalists. Participants can learn about wildlife, plants, night skies, park history, outdoor skills and more. There's no cost to attend naturalist events, but some require reservations. Check the [online events calendar](#) (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar) for a full list of programming.

Plan a picnic

There are 60 locations within the state parks and trails system with picnic shelters, and even more with picnic areas. The DNR's [guide on how to picnic like a pro](#) (mndnr.gov/picnic/index.html) provides picnic location suggestions and can help visitors learn what to pack, find games to play, and get campfire cooking recipes.

Walk, pedal and roll on state trails

Minnesota offers more than 1,300 miles of state trails. Many state trails are paved, making them a great option for bikers, in-line skaters, and people using wheelchairs or strollers. State trails do not require a vehicle permit. Find trail maps on the DNR's [state trails webpage](#) (mndnr.gov/trails).

Borrow equipment to try a new activity

Most state parks and recreation areas offer free loaner equipment so visitors can try a new activity before purchasing their own gear. Fishing kits, birding kits, kids' discovery kits and GPS units are available on a first come, first served basis at select park offices. Find where equipment is available to borrow on the DNR's [loaner equipment webpage](#) (mndnr.gov/state_parks/loaner.html).

Enjoy the water

Minnesota is known for water recreation, and paddling is a popular activity. To learn about state water trails for a paddling trip, visit the DNR's [water trails webpage](#) (mndnr.gov/canoeing). More than 30 state parks offer rentals, including canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. Life jackets are included with rentals. In addition, state parks are home to hundreds of lakes and many swimming beaches perfect for a day of play or relaxation. Use the [ParkFinder tool](#) (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) to find state parks with swimming beaches and rentals.

Limited camping reservations available

As of Thursday, May 18, 95% of available camping and lodging in state parks and recreation areas is fully booked for Memorial Day weekend. People looking for a camping reservation will find the most openings in northwestern Minnesota. Locations with more than 10 available campsites include Franz Jevne, Lake Bronson and Zippel Bay state parks and Red River State Recreation Area.

Campers who don't have a reservation can consider state forest campgrounds, where all campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. Find these campgrounds on the DNR's [camping in Minnesota state forests webpage](https://mndnr.gov/state_forests/camping.html) (mndnr.gov/state_forests/camping.html).

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area pages on the DNR website post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts on [park webpages](https://mndnr.gov/parks) (mndnr.gov/parks).

For more information about any of these recreation opportunities, visit www.mndnr.gov or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Night to Unite – Tuesday, August 1st

Mark your calendars, get together with your neighbors to make plans for participating in this annual public safety event. Register your event online with the Sheriff's office at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2023>

Registration helps the Sheriff's Office and Fire Departments with scheduling visits to your event!

Registration deadline is Friday, July 14, 2023. Event planning tools are available on the Ramsey County Sheriff's website. More details and rsvp information will be sent when you register your event.

Special City Council Meeting – Long Term Strategy Introductions – Tuesday, May 9th

Highlights from the Special City Council meeting include:

- Engineering Firms H.R. Green, TKDA, and WSB presented to the City Council on their proposals for creating a master utility and infrastructure long-term plan for our community.
- A consistent set of questions was asked to each firm.
- Two other Engineer Firms are expected to present their proposals in late May.
- A joint meeting with NOHOA will be scheduled once the firms under consideration have been narrowed down.
- Informational session only, there were no motions or decisions were made.

Planning Commission Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 10th

Highlights Include:

- Commissioners reviewed the Preliminary Plat subdivision application for 17 single family home sites known as Red Forest Way South. There were no resident comments during the public hearing. The application was recommended for approval up to the City Council.
- Commissioners will review two Ordinances as part of a Public Hearing to take place at the next Planning Commission meeting on June 22nd. The proposed changes include revisions to: 1) Chapter 34 Planning Commission composition and responsibilities, and 2) Chapter 151 Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. The proposed red-lined changes can be viewed as part of the 5.10.2023 [Planning Commission Packet](#).

- Commissioners agreed to shift the next regular Planning Commission meeting up one week to June 22nd to enable all Commissioners to attend.

Residents can watch the Planning Commission meeting [HERE](#), however it has been noted that there was an issue with the audio volume being low on the Broadcast recording. The conversation can be heard more clearly on the zoom recording [HERE](#).

Highlights from the Regular City Council meeting Thursday, May 11th

- Bill Long from the NOHOA Board gave an update. The NOHOA Board is in the final stages of analysis on proposals from management companies to take over some responsibilities for the Homeowner's Association. They are down to two companies for consideration and they hope to have a decision by June 1st. They also have Summerfest coming up for the community on June 3rd.
- Deputy Lassegard gave a report on crime in the area, including financial scams under the guise of borrowing a phone to call for assistance for a broken-down car, catalytic converter thefts, and some solicitation trespassing. He has been noticing some more speeding as the weather has turned warmer, and encouraged drivers to maintain safe speeds for the safety of the community. He also gave a brief report on a burglary that occurred in the 100 block of West Pleasant Lake Road. He noted that it is an ongoing investigation, and clarified that there was no drug activity at the scene. Crime Prevention Deputy Alicia Ouellette from Ramsey County Crime Prevention joined Deputy Lassegard to give a report on the number of burglaries in recent years, noting that there were 5 in 2022 and 5 in 2021. She stated that some of this comes from theft at the job sites of new homes being built, where thieves are looking for metals or dumpster diving. She emphasized that there is no pattern of snowbirds being targeted specifically, but encouraged residents to be cautious when leaving their homes unattended. Residents can proactively contact the Ramsey County Sheriff's office to request "House Checks" free of charge from Community Affairs volunteers, work with private home watch companies, and communicate with neighbors when they plan to be away. Deputy Ouellette also added that Ramsey County dispatch has also added a social worker who can assist with mental health issues from any calls. City Councilors requested information be shared more regularly and in a timelier manner with residents in order to keep them better informed on crime in the area.
- Consistent with the Federal and State Government and surrounding cities, City Council voted to terminate the local emergency declaration that was adopted during COVID.
- The 2022 Audit was accepted into record with no notable issues.
- White Bear Township Water Memorandum of Understanding was discussed dealing with the White Bear Lake water lawsuit.
- City Council voted to allow the release of the existing letters of credit and cash escrow to combine into a single new letter of credit as part of the East Oaks PDA.
- Mayor Wolter presented an idea for a quarterly newsletter that would be sent to residents via postal mail. This newsletter would include updates from the City, NOHOA and other local stakeholders such as the Hill Farm Historical Society, the Golf Club, etc. This piece would be paid for by sponsors, although would not include advertisements. Council voted to allow the Mayor and City Administrator Kress to move forward with developing this idea.

Residents can watch the City Council meeting [HERE](#).

Reminder: No Motorized Vehicles on Trails

Please remember that motorized vehicles such as scooters and motor bikes are not allowed on North Oaks trails. Bicycles and E-Bikes are permitted. For questions about trail use, contact the North Oaks Homeowner's Association at 651-792-7765 or nohoa@nohoa.org.

May 15-21 – National Police Week

May 15-21 is National Police Week. This week is dedicated to honoring the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty. It is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, and to remember their commitment to keeping people safe. A special thank you to the North Oaks Deputy Matt Lassegard for keeping our community safe!

Taking Care of our Natural Resources

Over the next several weeks, the City will highlight topics on Pesticide and Chemical use within our environment with consideration for the safety and care of humans, pets, and pollinators. The City website has a great resource of information. This week – learn more about the [safety and effectiveness of backyard mosquito sprays](#).

Pedestrian Safety

From the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain News:

Pedestrian safety is a responsibility shared by drivers and pedestrians. When drivers maintain safe speeds and practice other safe driving behaviors, safer walking environments are created for you, your loved ones, and others in your community. When pedestrians maintain awareness of their surroundings and practice safe behaviors it helps everyone.

Know the Basics—Pedestrian Safety

8 Safety Tips for Drivers

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

8 Walking Safety Tips

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.

- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.
- Embrace walking as a healthy form of transportation - get up, get out and get moving.

COVID-19 – MN Department of Health

While the official Federal and State Emergency Declarations have ended for COVID-19 pandemic, there is still available resources and data on current situation. Information can be found on the MN Department of Health Website with weekly situation updates. [Situation Update for COVID-19 - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](#)

DNR urges people to Leave Deer Fawns Alone

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks that people avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns, which are born around this time of year.

Most fawns are born in mid-May to mid-June, and fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers forage watchfully nearby.

Be assured deer fawns are likely fine even if they look abandoned or fragile. Even if the fawn is known to be wounded or abandoned due to car strike or animal attack, do not transport it without talking to a wildlife rehabilitator. For more information about what to do when people find fawns or other species of young wild animals, visit the [DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/orphaned-wildlife.html).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **City Council** – TBD, Wednesday, May 31st at 5:30 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

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*** Connect with us! “Follow” the [City of North Oaks Facebook page](#) for the most current City updates.*

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/26/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Office Closure – Memorial Day

The North Oaks City Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th Memorial Day Holiday. Thank you to the veterans and active service members for their service to our country. Have a peaceful and memorable holiday!

Special City Council Meeting – Wednesday 5/31

There will be a special City Council meeting on Wednesday, May 31st at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive. The purpose of the meeting is:

- Consider Application for Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan to add additional properties within the areas designated for future municipal sewer and water service and within the area designated as emerging suburban edge. (Modification of Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Chapter 3 and amendments to Maps 1, 16, 17 and 18 of the City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan which would allow the installation of municipal sanitary sewer and water systems, as well as the addition to the Emerging Suburban Edge (Map 1), Future Sewer Area (Map 16), Future Service Area (Map 17), and Future Water Service Areas (Map 18). The areas proposed to be added to Maps 16, 17 are Tracts A through R of RLS 640. Maps 1 and 18 areas proposed to be added area Tracts A through R of RLS 640 and Tracts F and H of RLS 561.)
- Discussion and possible action on Age-Friendly Minnesota Community Grant
- Discussion and possible action on infrastructure master planning proposals.

Board Members from NOHOA and North Oaks Company have been invited to participate in the conversation. The full meeting notices can be found [HERE](#) and posted at City Hall. Questions about this meeting may be directed to City Administrator Kevin Kress at 651-792-7750.

Brush Pick Complete – Thank you!

Thanks to those who participated in the annual brush pick up day yesterday and today. Budget Tree Service efficiently made stops at 33+ households to collect excess brush. Check out the photos of brush pickup day in action. If there are any follow up issues, contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519.



COMMUNITY

NineNorth Community Event Videos

In support of the Mounds View School District, NineNorth records various district events. A few of those recent events were the Chalkboard Capers Variety Show, Prom Grand March, and the end of year Choir Concert.

- Watch your students' teachers and music instructors perform at the annual fundraising [Chalkboard Capers variety show.](#)
- The Mounds View H.S. Grand March link can be found here: <https://ninenorth.org/videos/mounds-view-high-school-prom-grand-march-2023/>
- The end of year Mounds View H.S. Choir Concert from Tuesday, 5/23 can be found here: [Mounds View Schools 621 - Sports, Events, Concerts - Nine North](#)

James J. Hill Historical Event

For those who missed the historical society event last Friday, May 19th, part of this event is featured here: [Hill Farm Historical Society Spring Presentation - Nine North.](#) The guest speaker was Stephen Sadis, Producer/Director at Great North Filmworks and Sadis Filmworks. He provided an update and showed a portion of the newly released Documentary – “The Empire Builder: James J. Hill and The Great Northern Railway”.

Local Summer Events - Mark Calendars

Looking for Summer activities close by? Mark your calendars for the upcoming events in our local / nearby Cities:

- City of North Oaks – Refer to North Oaks Homeowners Association announcements / Facebook page for details on Summerfest taking place June 3rd from 6 – 9 p.m. (Residents Only)
- [White Bear Lake Market fest](#) – Thursdays starting June 15th – July 27th 6 – 9:00 p.m.
- City of Shoreview - Farmers Market and Concerts in the park. Check out the following links for details & concert line up.

[Farmers market](#) - Shoreview Community Center parking lot, Tuesday 3- 7 p.m., June 6th – August 29th
[Concerts in the Park](#) – Shoreview Commons, Wednesdays at 7 pm, June 14th – August 9th.

SAFETY

Be a Good Neighbor - Pet Awareness

As pets begin spending more time outdoors in this summer weather, please be conscientious of your neighbors and do not let your pets bark excessively. With more walkers and kids soon traveling our roads this summer, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure pets do not disturb neighbors and stay within their own yards for the safety of all. The full ordinance on domestic animals can be found under [Ordinance 90.15 HERE](#).

Reminder of Animal Control and Leashing Ordinance

Please remember to follow City Ordinance regarding animal control guidelines when your pets are out of the house. Ordinance § 90.15 states: "Any animal shall be deemed to be under control if it is on the premises of its owner; on the premises of another owner of property with the property owner's permission; if on a leash held by a person able to physically restrain the animal; or if suitably trained to respond to audible or other signals and accompanied by a person within the range of trained response when on public or easement property".

Homeowners Association regulations require pets be leashed on our NOHOA trails and recreation spaces. Residents have varying levels of comfort with off leash animals. For the safety of others and their own leashed pets, please keep your pet leashed in our shared public spaces to ensure all residents have the ability to comfortably use these spaces.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Invasive Species

The landscape in North Oaks is in full bloom, and that means Invasive Species are sprouting as well. To learn more about Invasive Species in the area and learn how to combat them in your own yards, check out the following video from the Natural Resources Commission: [North Oaks Invasive Species | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#) as well as resources from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [Invasive Species in Minnesota | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks

City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—6/2/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Council Meeting Canceled – The meeting for Thursday, June 8th has been canceled.

Highlights from the Special City Council Meeting – Wednesday, 5/31

- Council reviewed the request for Comprehensive plan amendment to update maps 1, 16, 17, 18 to allow water and sewer option for 33 new single-family home lots being platted in the Red Forest Way South area. Motion was unanimously approved. Discussions will take place with Met Council and White Bear Lake regarding this matter.
- Discussion and possible action on Age-Friendly Minnesota Community Grant. The City has been awarded a \$22,000 grant by the State of Minnesota. Discussion took place on what may be considered eligible activities under the given guidelines of “developing age-friendly projects and make Minnesota an age-friendly place to live”. Motion approved to table discussion of further ideas to next Thursday’s Council meeting.
- Discussion with City Council, NOHOA and North Oaks Company on planning efforts to develop a future Comprehensive City Master Infrastructure plan. This planning effort is to promote collaboration to ensure water, sewer, stormwater, water quality, sustainability, and roads are in position for the long-term future of community.

The full Special City Council Meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Mailbox Orders Available for Pickup

Mailboxes from the recent order have arrived at City Hall and are available for pick-up. If you placed an order, you can pick up your mailbox during office hours, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m.-Noon.

If you did not place an advance order, there are still a limited number of extra mailboxes available for purchase. Please contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to inquire about availability. Sizing and pricing information for mailboxes is available here: [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

When is a permit required?

As construction season is in full swing, many residents and their contractors have questions on when a City permit is required vs. Homeowners Association ASC approval. Click [here](#) for a general overview of the Property improvement process.

North Oaks Homeowners Association – Contact Information

The North Oaks Homeowners Association has transitioned to a property management company effective June 1st. For all NOHOA questions such as car stickers, boat racks, programming, trails, roads, public spaces, contact:

Care Team Hours & Contact Information

Monday – Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm and Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm

651-233-1307 | CareTeam@rowcal.com

SAFETY

Warm Weather -Pet Safety Tips

Ramsey County Sherriff's office reminder: As the summer temperatures rise, be aware of precautions to keep your pets safe. Pets can get dehydrated quickly and paws can burn on hot asphalt. Be sure they have plenty of shade and water and watch for signs of overheating. Do not leave a pet in a car as temperatures can rise more than 20 degrees than outside temperatures in a short amount of time (even with a window cracked).

It's Hot Out!
Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

-  A car can overheat **even** when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.
-  Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are **most at risk** for overheating.
-  Shady spots offer **little** protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

90° **102°** **120°**

- Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!
- On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.
- Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

 Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! **Stay by the car until assistance arrives.**



Slow Down

For protection of all residents, just a reminder to make complete stop at stop signs, 30 mph **MAX** within interior North Oaks, allow more time to get to your destination, drive with care and expect walkers around blind corners. Let's have a good SAFE start to the summer.

Unwanted Solicitors

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National Night to Unite Tuesday 8/1– Considering Hosting an Event

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[Register with the Ramsey County Sherriff's office](#) by July 14th to subscribe to updates regarding the event, get suggestions for activities, print a sample flyer to send to neighbors and register online. It is a great opportunity to reconnect with your local neighbors and bring the community together. Only those registered parties by the deadline will receive visits from Ramsey County Sherriff's department, fire department/elected officials during their event. It's a great opportunity to strengthen your section of the community.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Reminder: Tick Survey is Ongoing

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For more information on the Tick Task Force, view the survey results as of 5.31.2023 and view tick safety resources, visit: [Tick Task Force Committee | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

June is Great Outdoors Month in Minnesota

Per MN DNR News press release 6.2.2023

During Great Outdoors Month, the DNR is offering special programs and incentives to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors. June 9-11 is the annual Take a Kid Fishing weekend, when Minnesotans 16 or older who take a child 15 or younger fishing don't need a fishing license. More information is available on the [Take a Kid Fishing web page](#) (mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing).

June 10-11 is also a no-registration riding weekend on motorized state and Grant-in-Aid trails. This weekend allows Minnesotans with an all-terrain vehicle registered for private or agricultural use to ride public trails without paying the registration fee. Find ATV trails on the [trail locations map](#) (mndnr.gov/ohv/map.html).

On Saturday, June 10, the DNR will also host a Free Park Day, which allows free entrance to all 75 state parks and recreation areas in Minnesota. There's a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans.

In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, paddling and birding, a variety of state park programs are open to all visitors. Programs are free, but some require preregistration. Find state park programs online at the [state parks and trails events calendar](#) (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

The entrance fee waiver for Free Park Day does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping, rentals, or special tours. Details are on the [Free Park Day web page](#) (mndnr.gov/freeparkday).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Special City Council Meeting – Wednesday 5/31

There was a special City Council meeting on Wednesday, May 31st at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive. The purpose of the meeting was:

- Consider Application for Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan to add additional properties within the areas designated for future municipal sewer and water service and within the area designated as emerging suburban edge. (Modification of Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Chapter 3 and amendments to Maps 1, 16, 17 and 18 of the City of North Oaks 2040 Comprehensive Plan which would allow the installation of municipal sanitary sewer and water systems, as well as the addition to the Emerging Suburban Edge (Map 1), Future Sewer Area (Map 16), Future Service Area (Map 17), and Future Water Service Areas (Map 18). The areas proposed to be added to Maps 16, 17 are Tracts A through R of RLS 640. Maps 1 and 18 areas proposed to be added area Tracts A through R of RLS 640 and Tracts F and H of RLS 561.)
- Discussion and possible action on infrastructure master planning proposals.
- Discuss Ageing-in place Grant.

Board Members from NOHOA and North Oaks Company participated in the conversation. The full meeting notices can be found [HERE](#) and posted at City Hall. Questions about this meeting may be directed to City Administrator Kevin Kress at 651-792-7750.

Brush Pick-Up Complete – Thank you!

Thanks to those who participated in the annual brush pick up day yesterday and today. Budget Tree Service efficiently made stops at 33+ households to collect excess brush. Check out the photos of brush pickup day in action. If there are any follow up issues, contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519.



NineNorth Community Event Videos

In support of the Mounds View School District, NineNorth records various district events. A few of those recent events were the Chalkboard Capers Variety Show, Prom Grand March, and the end of year Choir Concert.

- Watch your students' teachers and music instructors perform at the annual fundraising [Chalkboard Capers variety show.](#)

- The Mounds View H.S. Grand March link can be found here: <https://ninenorth.org/videos/mounds-view-high-school-prom-grand-march-2023/>
- The end of year Mounds View H.S. Choir Concert from Tuesday, 5/23 can be found here: [Mounds View Schools 621 - Sports, Events, Concerts - Nine North](#)

James J. Hill Historical Event

For those who missed the historical society event last Friday, May 19th, part of this event is featured here: [Hill Farm Historical Society Spring Presentation - Nine North.](#) The guest speaker was Stephen Sadis, Producer/Director at Great North Filmworks and Sadis Filmworks. He provided an update and showed a portion of the newly released Documentary – “The Empire Builder: James J. Hill and The Great Northern Railway”.

Local Summer Events - Mark Calendars

Looking for Summer activities close by? Mark your calendars for the upcoming events in our local / nearby Cities:

- City of North Oaks – Refer to North Oaks Homeowners Association announcements / Facebook page for details on Summerfest taking place June 3rd from 6 – 9 p.m. (Residents Only)
- [White Bear Lake Market fest](#) – Thursdays starting June 15th – July 27th 6 – 9:00 p.m.
- City of Shoreview - Farmers Market and Concerts in the park. Check out the following links for details & concert line up.

[Farmers market](#) - Shoreview Community Center parking lot, Tuesday 3- 7 p.m., June 6th – August 29th
[Concerts in the Park](#) – Shoreview Commons, Wednesdays at 7 pm, June 14th – August 9th.

Be a Good Neighbor - Pet Awareness

As pets begin spending more time outdoors in this summer weather, please be conscientious of your neighbors and do not let your pets bark excessively. With more walkers and kids soon traveling our roads this summer, it is the owner’s responsibility to ensure pets do not disturb neighbors and stay within their own yards for the safety of all. The full ordinance on domestic animals can be found under [Ordinance 90.15 HERE.](#)

Reminder of Animal Control and Leashing Ordinance

Please remember to follow City Ordinance regarding animal control guidelines when your pets are out of the house. Ordinance § 90.15 states: “Any animal shall be deemed to be under control if it is on the premises of its owner; on the premises of another owner of property with the property owner’s permission; if on a leash held by a person able to physically restrain the animal; or if suitably trained to respond to audible or other signals and accompanied by a person within the range of trained response when on public or easement property”.

Homeowners Association regulations require pets be leashed on our NOHOA trails and recreation spaces. Residents have varying levels of comfort with off leash animals. For the safety of others and their own leashed pets, please keep your pet leashed in our shared public spaces to ensure all residents have the ability to comfortably use these spaces.

Invasive Species

The landscape in North Oaks is in full bloom, and that means Invasive Species are sprouting as well. To learn more about Invasive Species in the area and learn how to combat them in your own yards, check out the following video from the Natural Resources Commission: [North Oaks Invasive Species | City of](#)

[North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](http://www.northoaksmn.gov) as well as resources from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [Invasive Species in Minnesota](#) | [Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Canceled City Council** – Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, Phone: 651-792-7750

For your convenience, permit and license applications and other business can be submitted to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and processed remotely without the need to make a trip into the office. Contact the City with any questions.

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—6/9/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Keep your Mail Secure: Locking Mailboxes Available for Purchase

If you did not place an advance order, there are still a limited number of extra black mailboxes available for purchase. There is currently 1 Package Master size (\$205), and 6 Mail Manager size (\$100) available purchase. Contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to inquire about current availability. Sizing information for mailboxes is available here: [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#).

City Hall is open 9 – 4 Monday through Thursday, or 9 – Noon on Friday's to purchase and pick up a box. Referral to a handyman will be provided if you need assistance in installation. (Installation paid separately direct to handyman)

Coming Soon – City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Two Weeks Away: June 24th

It's almost here! Start gathering those hard to get rid of items around the house. The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 5th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 24 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

Residents will be able to drop off a wide range of recyclable items, including lamps, light bulbs, household and automotive batteries, computers, hard drives, TV monitors and other electronics, mattresses, box springs, residential appliances, and ink/toner cartridges. Please click [HERE](#) for a complete list of what items can be accepted and free item coupon. A paper shredder will again be available; up to four banker-sized boxes per household, please. Clean scrap metal will also be accepted this year (no attached plastic, wood, etc.) They will **NOT** take carpet this year.

There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE. There is a coupon in the June 2023 issue of the North Oaks News that entitles drop off of one item for free. One coupon per household please. For questions, please contact the city office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750.

Graduation Party Etiquette / Ordinance

Congratulations to all the new Graduates in our Community! As you have celebration gatherings, please remember that City regulations require guests to park on 1 side of the road only, in order to allow traffic to pass on our narrow roads. It does not matter which side of the road, just pick a side and instruct other guests to follow suit. There is no overnight parking on the street between the hours of 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.

Reminder: Tick Survey is Ongoing

Great responses on the tick survey this week! It's peak tick season in Minnesota! Please remember to [follow tick prevention guidelines](#) while out in nature, and participate in the ongoing Tick survey from the North Oaks Tick Task force when you encounter a deer tick or receive a diagnosis of tick-borne illness. The survey is quick and easy to complete: [Tick Task Force Survey - on-going survey | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

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COMMUNITY

Summer Reading with the Shoreview Library

School is out of session and it's a great time for kids and teens to indulge in summer reading with the Ramsey County Library. On Saturday, June 10th, the Shoreview Library kicks off their Teen Summer Reading Program with an event from 1-3 p.m. Teens can pick out a free book and make a craft onsite. For more information, visit: [Teen Summer Reading Program Kickoff | Events | Ramsey County Library \(bibliocommons.com\)](#)

For more information on the Summer Reading program and other kickoff events, visit [Kids | Ramsey County Library \(rclreads.org\)](#)

Manitou Days – June 15 – July 4th

This summer event in nearby White Bear Lake features the Manitou Grande parade, Medallion Hunt, boat show, beach dance, Thursday night events 6-9 p.m., fireworks, flyover, music and more. Refer to the full schedule of events in the newspaper insert of the Shoreview Press in Resident mailboxes.

Outdoor Summer Activities – Farmers Market and Outdoor Music

The Farmers market season has begun! The Shoreview Farmers market takes place on Tuesday's between 3 – 7 p.m. in the lower level parking lot of the Shoreview Community Center.

The Shoreview [Summer Music concert series](#) starts on Wednesday June 14th at 7 p.m. by the lower level pavilion at the Community center on Wednesday nights through August 9th. Entertainment at the [White Bear Lake Market fest](#) is downtown each Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. by gazebo, starting Thursday, June 15th through July 27th. Bring a lawn chair and check out the links for details.

SAFETY

School is Out – Watch out for Kids on Bikes

We love the opportunity for kids to get out on their bikes this summer. Slow down and please watch out for kids (and human walkers 😊) on our narrow windy roads this summer. Here's to a happy, safe summertime of activities!

NATURAL RESOURCES

***Reminder:** There is no fishing in North Oaks lakes [per DNR regulations as "Closed Lakes"](#) - refer to the links above for alternate options and local fishing piers.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Highlights from the Special City Council Meeting – Wednesday, 5/31

- Council reviewed the request for Comprehensive plan amendment to update maps 1, 16, 17, 18 to allow water and sewer option for 33 new single-family home lots being platted in the Red Forest Way South area. Motion was unanimously approved. Discussions will take place with Met Council and White Bear Lake regarding this matter.
- Discussion and possible action on Age-Friendly Minnesota Community Grant. The City has been awarded a \$22,000 grant by the State of Minnesota. Discussion took place on what may be

considered eligible activities under the given guidelines of “developing age-friendly projects and make Minnesota an age-friendly place to live”. Motion approved to table discussion of further ideas to next Thursday’s Council meeting.

- Discussion with City Council, NOHOA and North Oaks Company on planning efforts to develop a future Comprehensive City Master Infrastructure plan. This planning effort is to promote collaboration to ensure water, sewer, stormwater, water quality, sustainability, and roads are in position for the long-term future of community.

The full Special City Council Meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

When is a permit required?

As construction season is in full swing, many residents and their contractors have questions on when a City permit is required vs. Homeowners Association ASC approval. Click [here](#) for a general overview of the Property improvement process.

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- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - TBD

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/7/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City E-Blast Distribution Issue

That have been reports that not everyone on the distribution list has been receiving the weekly City of North Oaks E-Blast. Due to some new spam filters recently installed for security purposes, it appears that the full distribution list is getting hung up due to the number of users on our distribution list. (It thinks we are sending spam and then locks up our own email account).

While we work with our IT department on the best means of sending our weekly news electronically, just a reminder that all City E-Blasts can also found on the City website under [City Hall/Weekly Town News](#). Thanks for your patience as we find the best alternative to get current information our to our residents.

Two City Council Meetings Next Week

In order to allow sufficient time for discussion of all topics, there will be two meetings of the City council next week.

1. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the City Council of North Oaks will be held on **Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- Discussion and possible action on infrastructure master planning effort
- Discussion and possible action on acceptable driveway materials for surfacing

Refer to [full meeting notices](#) for details.

2. The regular City Council meeting will take place on Thursday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m. also in the Community Room at City Hall. The meeting will include regular monthly business items as well as discussion on the Red Forest Way Phase II development.

The full meeting packets and links for viewing the meetings will be published on the City calendar no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting, by clicking the meeting entry. Zoom will be available for both meetings, with the regular Thursday Council meeting also televised.

City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Recap

Thanks to the 100+ residents that participated in the annual City / NOHOA recycling Day at Southpoint Fields on Saturday June 24th. During this event, 8,500 pounds of items were recycled and kept out of the landfill, including electronics, scrap metal, televisions, appliances, light bulbs, mattresses, tires, batteries, paper shredding and more.

Operation Clearview

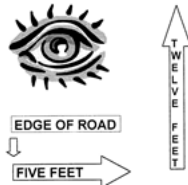
As we reach the peak of summer bush / tree growth, the City is receiving many calls about overgrowth along roads causing safety sightline issues down roads and at intersections.

Operation Clearview is the reminder to all residents that is it the homeowner's responsibility to ensure clear sightlines 5 feet back and 12 feet up from the roads edge. This allows motorists, walkers,

bicyclists, fire trucks, and school buses to safely travel our narrow roads and not get hung up on branches hanging into the roads.

Please take a fresh look at your property to trim back as necessary to ensure the 5 feet back/12 feet up from roads are clear.

“OPERATION CLEAR VIEW”



COMMUNITY

Save the date: Slice of Shoreview

The Slice of Shoreview Festival takes place July 21 – 23, 2023 at Island Lake Park and includes food, rides, entertainment, parade and Saturday night fireworks. Refer [HERE](#) for complete details including schedule of events, parade time and route, application to be a booth vendor and more.

Ramsey County Open House- County Rd J and I-35E Interchange Project

Ramsey County is hosting an open house on July 12th at the Tamarack Nature Center (5287 Otter Lake Rd, White Bear Township) from 4:30-6:30pm to discuss the upcoming County Road J and I-35E Interchange project.

This project is on the east side of North Oaks and may be of interest to those residents in Rapp Farm, Waverly Garden, and developments off of Centerville Road. This is open to the public.

SAFETY

Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Newsletter

Residents are encouraged to view the [Ramsey County Sheriff's Office July 2023 Block Captain - Crime Prevention Newsletter](#).

Highlights of the newsletter include:

- Night to Unite registration deadline **closes Friday, July 14**
- CERT – Community Emergency Response Training registration
- MnDOT and vehicle breakdown response – Who responds & what to do if you breakdown
- Pop-up scams hit locally
- Online gaming privacy settlements
- Medicaid scam prevention
- Summer Community Events and Festivals

Other action items:

- Night to Unite is the first Tuesday in August – August 1 this year. **Register your event at** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2023>

- If you have not already, consider signing up your area for a Neighborhood Watch program. The registration form ([link to form](#)) is on the Sheriff's website.

Ramsey County Sheriff's office thanks everyone for partnering in working for safer communities!

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office CERT Academy – Fall Training

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will conduct a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy this Fall for NEW students. This program is designed to train citizens how to better prepare themselves and their families should their home or neighborhood be affected by a disaster. During disasters, communities may not have immediate access to emergency services because of the size of the area affected, lost communications, or unusable roads. CERT trained citizens learn how to stay safe and help themselves, their family and neighborhood.

The 2023 CERT Academy training sessions will be held starting September 13, 2023, through November 8, 2023. The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 pm for nine consecutive weeks. Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 14, 2023, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Learn more [HERE](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hazardous Materials – July Drop-off Location

Do you have hazardous materials, propane tanks, or other materials to dispose of? Drop off items Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., or Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramsey County household hazardous waste mobile site.

The July location is in Arden Hills, 1352 Ben Franklin Road. Click for details:

RamseyRecycles.com/HHW

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Best Watering Practices

With the current dry conditions, reminder that watering should NOT take place in the heat of the daytime hours to minimize evaporation and make best use of our natural resources.

Those on Shoreview and White Bear Lake water must follow the even/odd address day watering restrictions. On your assigned day, [White Bear water](#) residents can water between 6 a.m. – 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. – 10 p.m., with [Shoreview water](#) requiring residents to water only before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Click the links above for full information.

Other watering tips (from City of Shoreview Water Restriction webpage):

When Should I Water?

- Watering twice a week is usually enough to keep a healthy lawn growing.
- Your lawn needs about one inch of water per week, including rainfall, to keep it green during the growing season.
- Water only when your lawn needs it, rather than on a set schedule.
- One sign that a lawn needs water is when it lacks enough moisture to spring back after you walk on it. If it stays flat, it's time to water.
- Water deeply and infrequently. Deep watering promotes a deep root system, while over-watering promotes shallow root growth, making your lawn less hardy.

Phone Scams – 10 Things You Can Do to Avoid Fraud

From Ramsey County Sherriff Crime Prevention

The call sounds real – a loved one is in trouble, you owe taxes, an arrest warrant has been issued, you won a large sum of money, your utilities are being cut off, your financial status is in jeopardy, etc. Could this be a scam? Quick litmus test:

1. Is this call the first time that you heard about this problem with this government agency?
2. Are you required to act immediately?
3. What is the method of payment – is it by wiring money, using a gift card or a cash reload card?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions it is most likely a scam.

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. The thief's goal is to get your money as quickly as possible in a way that makes it hard to trace them, and hard for you to get your money back.

[Here are some practical tips](#) to help you stay a step ahead and not fall victim. If you are victim who lost money to a scam call 9-1-1 to file a report.

Yellow Iris Removal

Did you see boats working on Pleasant and Deep Lake a few weeks ago? Natural Shore Technologies was working on removing yellow iris from the shorelines.

Although pretty, yellow iris is an invasive species to Minnesota. Because it grows aggressively, it outcompetes native plants, displaces wildlife and clogs wetlands. To learn more about yellow iris and the risk it poses to the natural environment, visit: [VLAWMO :: Beyond Appearances: Invasive Yellow Iris](#)

Tree Care in Dry Conditions

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently published a reminder to water your trees during this time of dry condition across Minnesota. Lack of water can cause trees shut down and leave them unable to defend themselves against pests. Water-stressed trees also release defense chemicals that attracts insects. to conserve water, water early morning or late night. For watering tips to keep your trees healthy, visit [Caring for trees | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

June VLAWMO Newsletter

The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization has published their June Newsletter. Highlights include information on smart irrigation programs, carp updates, and more. Check it out at: [VLAWMO Chronicle: June 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Outdoor Summer Activities – Farmers Market and Outdoor Music

The Farmers market season has begun! The Shoreview Farmers market takes place on Tuesday's between 3 – 7 p.m. in the lower level parking lot of the Shoreview Community Center.

The Shoreview [Summer Music concert series](#) starts on Wednesday June 14th at 7 p.m. by the lower level pavilion at the Community center on Wednesday nights through August 9th. Entertainment at the [White Bear Lake Market fest](#) is downtown each Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. by gazebo, starting Thursday, June 15th through July 27th. Bring a lawn chair and check out the links for details.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/14/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

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- Solicitors use of current North Oaks customer info to go door to door.
- Thefts at Walgreens
- North Oaks Summer fest a success and used Sheriff's office reserve volunteers to assist
- MN DNR and RC Reserves are patrolling trails and Lake Pleasant.
- 21 Traffic stops

FRAUD REPORTS:

- Deputy Sheriff impersonator. Some fraud calls indicate XCEL Energy past due.
- When called do not pay over phone. Never pay with gift cards.

DOGS IN WARM CARS - Be Aware of Danger:

EXTERNAL TEMP	HEAT STROKE	DEATH
70 degrees	50 minutes	90 minutes
90 degrees	20 minutes	60 minutes

*Certain types of dogs can be even more at risk – don't chance it.

OTHER:

NIGHT TO UNITE takes place Tuesday, August 1

- THEME BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
- **Registration ended 7-14 – The County may still be able to accommodate if you act swiftly.**
- SURVEYMONKEY.COM/r/NTU/2023
Look in the Monthly North Oaks News for "DEPUTY Matt's Corner" article.

Reporting Animal Control Problems

From time to time, residents may encounter issues with pets in the neighborhood, such as excessive periods of barking or aggressive dogs. If you have concerns about animals that you cannot resolve yourself after contacting the owner, contact Animal Control Officer Lee. Officer Lee takes a community-based approach to resolving issues, and helps residents find solutions that can make dogs and cats good neighbors.

In the event of an encounter with an aggressive pet, please remember to gather as much information at the time of the incident as possible. When working with residents, Officer Lee will ask for information such as:

- Your name and phone number
- Location of the complaint
- Description of the complaint
- Description of the animal
- Possible animal owner information – Name, contact information, address, rabies vaccination status of animal

For more information about animal control in Ramsey County, visit: [Animal Control | Ramsey County](#)

Officer Lee can be reached at:



*"Heart
of Service"*

Mario Lee | Animal Control Officer
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Services Division
1411 Paul Kirkwood Drive | Arden Hills, Minnesota
55112
Mobile: 651-248-2491
mario.lee@ramseycounty.us
www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Lost / Found Pets

Occasionally pets are found wandering away from their homes. If you have found a pet and standard efforts of reuniting by contacting neighbors and North Oaks Residents Facebook page is not successful, contact the Ramsey County Sheriff's office non-emergency number at 651-291-1111 and they will send an Animal control Officer.

From that point, lost/found pets in North Oaks are taken to the Animal Humane Society, located at 9785 Hudson Road, in Woodbury, MN for reunification. The phone number is 952-435-7738 or 952-HELP-PET. Phone hours are 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday. Search online for impounded animals at <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/strays>.

Click [HERE](#) on helpful steps from the SPACC to take if you've lost or found a pet.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Chronicle July Newsletter:

The Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed Management Organization has published their July Newsletter. This edition shares information about a new bioswale in Vadnais Heights, summer happenings with the organization and a partnership with the White Bear Lake Rotary. Check it out at: [VLAWMO Chronicle: July 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Operation Clearview

As we reach the peak of summer bush / tree growth, the City is receiving many calls about overgrowth along roads causing safety sightline issues down roads and at intersections.

Operation Clearview is the reminder to all residents that is it the **homeowner's responsibility to ensure clear sightlines 5 feet back and 12 feet up from the roads edge**. This allows motorists, walkers, bicyclists, fire trucks, and school buses to safely travel our narrow roads and not get hung up on branches hanging into the roads.

Please take a fresh look at your property to trim back as necessary to ensure the 5 feet back/12 feet up from roads are clear.

"OPERATION CLEAR VIEW"



City E-Blast Distribution Issue

That have been reports that not everyone on the distribution list has been receiving the weekly City of North Oaks E-Blast. Due to some new spam filters recently installed for security purposes, it appears that the full distribution list is getting hung up due to the number of users on our distribution list. (It thinks we are sending spam and then locks up our own email account).

While we work with our IT department on the best means of sending our weekly news electronically, just a reminder that all City E-Blasts can also found on the City website under [City Hall/Weekly Town News](#). Thanks for your patience as we find the best alternative to get current information our to our residents.

City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Recap

Thanks to the 100+ residents that participated in the annual City / NOHOA recycling Day at Southpoint Fields on Saturday June 24th. During this event, 8,500 pounds of items were recycled and kept out of the landfill, including electronics, scrap metal, televisions, appliances, light bulbs, mattresses, tires, batteries, paper shredding and more.

Save the date: Slice of Shoreview

The Slice of Shoreview Festival takes places July 21 – 23, 2023 at Island Lake Park and includes food, rides, entertainment, parade and Saturday night fireworks. Refer [HERE](#) for complete details including schedule of events, parade time and route, application to be a booth vendor and more.

Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Newsletter

Residents are encouraged to view the [Ramsey County Sheriff's Office July 2023 Block Captain - Crime Prevention Newsletter](#).

Highlights of the newsletter include:

- Night to Unite registration deadline **closes Friday, July 14**
- CERT – Community Emergency Response Training registration
- MnDOT and vehicle breakdown response – Who responds & what to do if you breakdown
- Pop-up scams hit locally
- Online gaming privacy settlements
- Medicaid scam prevention
- Summer Community Events and Festivals

Other action items:

- Night to Unite is the first Tuesday in August – August 1 this year. **Register your event at** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU2023>

- If you have not already, consider signing up your area for a Neighborhood Watch program. The registration form ([link to form](#)) is on the Sheriff's website.

Ramsey County Sheriff's office thanks everyone for partnering in working for safer communities!

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office CERT Academy – Fall Training

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will conduct a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy this Fall for NEW students. This program is designed to train citizens how to better prepare themselves and their families should their home or neighborhood be affected by a disaster. During disasters, communities may not have immediate access to emergency services because of the size of the area affected, lost communications, or unusable roads. CERT trained citizens learn how to stay safe and help themselves, their family and neighborhood.

The 2023 CERT Academy training sessions will be held starting September 13, 2023, through November 8, 2023. The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 pm for nine consecutive weeks. Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 14, 2023, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Hazardous Materials – July Drop-off Location

Do you have hazardous materials, propane tanks, or other materials to dispose of? Drop off items Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., or Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramsey County household hazardous waste mobile site.

The July location is in Arden Hills, 1352 Ben Franklin Road. Click for details:

RamseyRecycles.com/HHW

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/21/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Storm Cleanup Efforts Continue

Thank you to Mel's, Xcel Energy crews, and the many residents who helped with cleanup after the storms on Wednesday evening. Overall, there were approximately 45 downed trees that Mel's worked to clean up on the roads, and more than 427 residents without power as a result of the incident. Cleanup efforts are ongoing, and we appreciate your patience as contractors work through the damage.

A few reminders in the aftermath of the event, and for future safety:

- Do not approach any downed power lines as they may be live and pose a safety hazard.
- Learn what to do if you experience a power outage: where to report, how to check the status, and checklists for safety: [Outage and Safety | Xcel Energy](#) and [Power Outages | Ready.gov](#)
- Trees **on roads or blocking road access** should be reported to 911 as a safety hazard and Mel's Services will be dispatched. All other non-emergency downed trees should be reported to the landowner to address. If the tree is on NOHOA property or on trails, please contact RowCal's Care Team at 651-233-1307 or CareTeam@rowcal.com.
- Need assistance with removal of fallen trees? Consult the following list of tree arborist companies that have been licensed to do work in the City of North Oaks. Visit: [2023 Licensed Arborists in North Oaks | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)
- Brush and other yard waste can be disposed of at local Ramsey County yard waste sites: [Yard Waste | Ramsey County](#)
- Brush and tree fires are allowed in the City of North Oaks, however permits are required through the Lake Johanna Fire Department. More information on burn permits and regulations is available here: [Permits - Burn Permit Required \(ljfd.org\)](#)
- Excel Energy maps show that all North Oaks residents should now have power restored. If you do not, report the outage immediately [HERE](#).
- Consider sharing pictures of tree damage and clean-up efforts with the North Oaks News publication for their Lens on North Oaks (LONO) picture section. Email: northoaksnews@presspubs.com

Thank you again to our service providers and the community for coming together to help neighbors in need. Please contact the city office with any other questions – 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov

Planning Commission Meeting – Next Thursday

There will be a Planning Commission meeting next Thursday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. On the agenda is discussion on proposed changes to Land Use Ordinance and Planning Commission composition. The full agenda packet can be found on line [HERE](#) no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting. Residents are welcome to attend in person, via zoom, or watch via computer or on Cable Channel 16.

COMMUNITY

Locking Mailboxes Still Available

The City still has a number of locking mailboxes available for purchase. There are two sizes options available, the larger Package Master and the smaller Mail Manager. Details on dimensions and pricing are available on the city website here: [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](http://northoaksmn.gov)

Please contact the city office at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to check availability and reserve your mailbox for pickup.

Library of Things Through the Ramsey County Library

Have you ever wanted to try a new recipe, start a home improvement project, or learn a craft without investing in the tools that they require? The Library of Things through the Ramsey County Library is a collection of kitchen items, tools, games, crafts and more that can be checked out by account holders. Items may be checked out for three weeks and are requestable, transferable and renewable. To view the items that are available, visit: [Library of Things | Ramsey County Library \(rclreads.org\)](http://rclreads.org)

Weekend Event - Shoreview

The Slice of Shoreview takes place this weekend. Join our neighboring City this weekend for outdoor music, Friday night fireworks, 10 a.m. Saturday parade, craft and vendor fair, a car show, a petting zoo, inflatables, food trucks and so much more!

Details: July 21 – 23, Free admission, Island Lake County Park located at 3611 Victoria Street N. (near 694/Victoria Street)

Click [HERE](#) for complete details and a schedule of events.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Neighborhood Plant and Raingarden Tours

Interested in learning more about how raingardens and native plants are being used by local homeowners? The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization is coordinating neighborhood plant and raingarden tours in neighboring communities. During these events, you can tour several projects that were supported by VLAWMO's Landscape grant program. You'll hear from the property owners, chat native plants, and learn how these efforts support local water resources. The next tour dates are Wednesday, August 9th and Thursday, August 17th. For more information, visit: [VLAWMO :: Events](#)

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- **Registration ended 7-14 – The County may still be able to accommodate if you act swiftly.**
- [SURVEYMONKEY.COM/r/NTU/2023](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTU/2023)

Look in the Monthly North Oaks News for "DEPUTY Matt's Corner" article.

Reporting Animal Control Problems

From time to time, residents may encounter issues with pets in the neighborhood, such as excessive periods of barking or aggressive dogs. If you have concerns about animals that you cannot resolve yourself after contacting the owner, contact Animal Control Officer Lee. Officer Lee takes a community-based approach to resolving issues, and helps residents find solutions that can make dogs and cats good neighbors.

In the event of an encounter with an aggressive pet, please remember to gather as much information at the time of the incident as possible. When working with residents, Officer Lee will ask for information such as:

- Your name and phone number
- Location of the complaint
- Description of the complaint
- Description of the animal
- Possible animal owner information – Name, contact information, address, rabies vaccination status of animal

For more information about animal control in Ramsey County, visit: [Animal Control | Ramsey County](#)

Officer Lee can be reached at: **Mario Lee** | Animal Control Officer, **Ramsey County Sheriff's Office**

Public Safety Services Division

1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive | Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Mobile: 651-248-2491

mario.lee@ramseycounty.us

www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Lost / Found Pets

Occasionally pets are found wandering away from their homes. If you have found a pet and standard efforts of reuniting by contacting neighbors and North Oaks Residents Facebook page is not successful, contact the Ramsey County Sheriff's office non-emergency number at 651-291-1111 and they will send an Animal control Officer.

From that point, lost/found pets in North Oaks are taken to the Animal Humane Society, located at 9785 Hudson Road, in Woodbury, MN for reunification. The phone number is 952-435-7738 or 952-HELP-PET.

Phone hours are 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday-Friday, and 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday. Search online for impounded animals at <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/strays>.

Click [HERE](#) on helpful steps from the SPACC to take if you've lost or found a pet.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Chronicle July Newsletter:

The Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed Management Organization has published their July Newsletter. This edition shares information about a new bioswale in Vadnais Heights, summer happenings with the organization and a partnership with the White Bear Lake Rotary. Check it out at: [VLAWMO Chronicle: July 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Access to participate in public meetings via remote zoom is still available at this time. Final materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.**

The community may also watch via the City website or Cable Channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings, with a link to re-watch the meeting posted on the website calendar following each meeting.

- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. (*2 weeks later than usual)

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, Phone: 651-792-7750

For your convenience, permit and license applications and other business can be submitted to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and processed remotely without the need to make a trip into the office. Contact the City with any questions.

City of North Oaks
100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230
North Oaks, MN 55127
651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/28/2023

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council Meeting

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 412.191, subd. 2 and North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the City Council of North Oaks will be held on Monday, July 31, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- Discussion and Possible Action on Master Infrastructure Plan
- Approval of Hill Farm Historical Liquor License

Refer to the special meeting notices [HERE](#).

Highlights from the Thursday, July 25th Planning Commission Meeting

- Motion to amend City Code Title 15, Chapter 151 was approved unanimously. This includes adding back language regarding amendments that were inadvertently struck from the City Code as part of some 2019 amendments. The proposed changes also clarify the process for amending the Comprehensive Plan and ordinance/map and add language regarding the Board of Appeals and Adjustments.
- Motion to approve proposed amendments to Chapter 34 Planning Commission composition and responsibilities, with modification to 34.06 C & D to add language regarding City Council report date change to February 1st, and updating “City” and “Chair” to be capitalized, was unanimously approved. The amendment clarifies the role of the Council liaison to the Planning Commission, Commissioner attendance policies and the Commission powers and duties as provided in state statutes.
- Kress will follow up with North Oaks Company to schedule a tour of the new development sites for Planning Commissioners.
- Future Planning Commission meeting topics may include reviewing CUP and Variance language on building height, excess garage space and septic systems to ensure they are still serving the City well. Cremons noted that Peace United Methodist church is looking to put in an electronic sign and Incarnation Church is looking to put in ground solar panel – neither of which are currently allowed by Ordinance. A subgroup will review solar, signage, home height, garage ordinances, then bring them back to the Planning Commission for further discussion.

Residents can watch the Planning Commission meeting [HERE](#), and view the complete meeting packet [HERE](#).

City Forester Role in our Community

Role of the City Forester is to assist our Community in maintaining the beautiful natural environment that we all love. With over 500,000 trees in our beautiful community, the City Forester is constantly helping the community by:

- Conducting forester workshops – Meeting with and [certifying tree companies](#) wishing to do business in our community and making sure they are aware of North Oaks unique rules and regulations.
- Meeting with residents onsite to discuss concerns about trees on their property.
- Identifying any diseased and dying trees that are safety hazard near roads and NOHOA trails.
- Helping to identify problem areas such as Oak Wilt and Emerald Ash Borer and educating on best methods to prevent/treat/eradicate to prevent property damage and spread.
- Participating in new subdivision development discussions and advising on best practices for keeping significant trees intact and healthy
- Helping to identify intersections in the community that have become overgrown and a safety hazard (Operation Clearview).
- Writing educational articles and creating videos for residents about current issues.

The City contracts with Rehder Forestry to provide these services to our Community. You may see Mark Rehder, Mary or Will around the community doing this important job, and they are happy to show residents their City issued identification. If the forestry team is concerned about a tree on your property, they may knock or place information on your door asking for your assistance in taking a more in-depth look at the concerning tree. You will find monthly Forester updates as part of the monthly City Council meeting packet. We are grateful for their services in keeping our Community a special place to live.

Rehder Forestry can be reached at 612 760-3519 or mark@rehderforestryconsulting.com.

Reminder and Updates on Complaint Policy in North Oaks

When a citizen has a complaint about ordinance violations or anything related to the activities and responsibilities of the City, complaints should be submitted in writing via the complaint form on the [City of North Oaks website](#). This form can be dropped off, sent by US mail or email to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the City Administrator will investigate the claim to determine if there is an ordinance violation and what, if any, action should be taken. In the past, the City would issue letters to residents with corrected action needed. Moving forward, if the complaint is justified, a letter will be sent by the Prosecuting Attorney outlining corrective action needed and a date by which the issue must be resolved.

For questions about the complaint policy, please contact the City office at 651-792-7750.

COMMUNITY

Night to Unite:

Next Tuesday, August 1st is Night to Unite! This is a great event to reconnect with your neighbors, first responders serving our community and local leaders. We have 14 Night to Unite events registered in North Oaks this year. If you are hosting or attending a neighborhood get-together, send us your photos at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and we will share them via Facebook.

Minnesota State Fair

The Great Minnesota Get-Together is August 24-September 4! To find Park and Ride locations closest to North Oaks, visit: [Free Park & Ride | Minnesota State Fair \(mnstatefair.org\)](#)

[Discount entry tickets and coupon books can be purchased at Cub Food stores](#) Customer Service desk from July 16 through August 23rd, while supplies last. Plan ahead.

Ralph Reeder Good Neighbor Back to School Project

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf is accepting donations for school supplies for the 2023-2024 school year. Some of the most needed items include:

- Large Sturdy Backpacks
- Spiral Wide Lined Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Pencils
- Washable Markers in Primary Colors
- \$10.00 Target Gift Cards Donations are needed by Friday, August 11, 2023

For more information on how to donate or to sign up to receive services, visit [Ralph Reeder Food Shelf / School Supplies \(moundsviewschools.org\)](#)

SAFETY

Coexisting with Coyote

There have been a few coyote sightings in the area. Coyotes have been reported throughout all suburban areas (not just North Oaks), and the reality is there are as many coyotes as food sources available to them. Help discourage coyotes from taking up residence by cutting back brush, because it attracts the type of wildlife coyotes thrive on. The recommendation is that lower limbs and branches of shrubs and trees be pruned back to a height of two feet.

Leaving pet food and available water outdoors for your pets has been known to encourage coyote visits. Remove all human sources of food, as a coyote that becomes dependent on humans for food may

become overly bold and acclimated to people. Refer [HERE](#) for more tips on protecting pets, what to do when you encounter coyote, and an information presentation by DNR on coyotes in suburban areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Learn about Emerald Ash Borer Tree Disease from the City Forester

As Emerald Ash Borer disease starts to take over the ash trees in our community, [watch a 4 minute video by City Forester Mark Rehder](#) as he educates residents about Emerald Ash Borer, how to identify Ash trees, dangers of not taking action, and options residents have to deal with this increasing problem.

Key signs of Emerald Ash Borer are:

- Thinning leaves in the tree crown
- Branches die back
- Bark splitting along the branches
- S shaped galley underneath bark splits
- “D” shaped holes exit holes
- New sprouts on the trunk
- New woodpecker activity

Also, coming soon to the [“Forester’s Nook” on the City website](#) will be a list of recommended replacement trees which can be planted in place of dying ash trees. Residents may contact the City Forester at 612-760-3519 with any questions.

Current Oak Wilt Status in Twin Cities is HIGH

We are currently in HIGH oak wilt season. Oak wilt is a fatal tree disease caused by a fungus that affects all species of oak trees. Oak wilt spreads from diseased to healthy trees either below ground via connected roots or above ground by insects.

Please do not prune oaks from April through July to prevent infection by sap beetles. If there is an unavoidable wound to oaks trees, cover the fresh wound with a latex-based paint or shellac as quickly as possible. Refer [HERE](#) for more information from the University of Minnesota Extension on Oak wilt in Minnesota.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community trees healthy!

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

What to do after a Severe Storm

Thank you to Mel’s, Xcel Energy crews, and the many residents who helped with cleanup after the storms on last Wednesday evening. Overall, there were approximately 45 downed trees that Mel’s

worked to clean up on the roads, and more than 427 residents without power as a result of the incident. Cleanup efforts are ongoing, and we appreciate your patience as contractors work through the damage.

For reminders on what to do in the aftermath of the event, links to report power outages, who to call when trees are down, how to get rid of downed branches, and more – view [Severe Storm tips on the homepage of the City website](#).

Locking Mailboxes Still Available

The City still has a number of locking mailboxes available for purchase. There are two sizes options available, the larger Package Master and the smaller Mail Manager. Details on dimensions and pricing are available on the City website here: [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

Please contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to check availability and reserve your mailbox for pickup.

Library of Things Through the Ramsey County Library

Have you ever wanted to try a new recipe, start a home improvement project, or learn a craft without investing in the tools that they require? The Library of Things through the Ramsey County Library is a collection of kitchen items, tools, games, crafts and more that can be checked out by account holders. Items may be checked out for three weeks and are requestable, transferable and renewable. To view the items that are available, visit: [Library of Things | Ramsey County Library \(rclreads.org\)](#)

VLAWMO Neighborhood Plant and Raingarden Tours

Interested in learning more about how raingardens and native plants are being used by local homeowners? The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization is coordinating neighborhood plant and raingarden tours in neighboring communities. During these events, you can tour several projects that were supported by VLAWMO's Landscape grant program. You'll hear from the property owners, chat native plants, and learn how these efforts support local water resources. The next tour dates are Wednesday, August 9th and Thursday, August 17th. For more information, visit: [VLAWMO :: Events](#)

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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City of North Oaks

100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750



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Eblast for the Week of 8.11.2023

Hello Residents & Friends of the City of North Oaks!

Our new format for communicating weekly City news is here! Please keep an eye out for this weekly communication from the City of North Oaks. This replaces our email which in the past has come from City Administrator Kevin Kress or City Staff emails.

We look forward to continuing to share relevant weekly information in the areas of: Important City Updates, Community Events, Safety, Natural Resources, and upcoming City meeting schedules.

If you missed a prior eblast, no problem! In the bottom right corner is the "In case you missed it" link to view the full eblast content from the prior week. Note: If you

do not see the images in this newsletter, you may need to right click and select "download pics" the first time you receive this newsletter.

Thanks for your continued interest in our community!

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Special City Council Meeting Cancelled

The Special City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 31 at 5:30 p.m. was cancelled due to a staff scheduling issue. The meeting will be rescheduled at a later date.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Night to Unite Event Summary

Thanks to all those who participated in one of the 14 Night to Unite North Oaks events on Tuesday, August 1st! Email your event pictures to City Hall to share community spirit via our Facebook page. Snapshots from the Raven Road and Sandpiper gatherings are shown below.



Special thanks to the Lake Johanna Fire Department and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department for their participation in the event. We appreciate your service and outreach in the community!

[Email City Hall](#)



Hill Farm Fest - Save the Date!

Save the date for the North Oaks Farm Fest. This community event, put on by the Hill Farm Historical Society, will take place on Sunday, September 10th from 3 - 7 p.m. at the Hill Farm Barn.

[Visit the Hill Farm Historical Society Website](#)



SAFETY

Prevent Car Theft

There was a car theft and a car break-in on south side of North Oaks last week, and a car break-in this week on west side. Please remember to keep all car doors locked, valuables out of site, and garage doors closed even when your vehicles are parked at home to avoid being a target. Neighbors, look out for unusual activity. Report suspicious activity to 911.

[View Car Safety Tips](#)





Scam Advisory

Swindlers impersonating Deputies are back with their "Wanted on a Warrant" telephone scam.

SCAM ALERT - The Sheriff's Office received several reports from citizens on Thursday, June 25, who had received a telephone call from a 'Ramsey County Deputy' asking for money over the phone to avoid being arrested for an outstanding warrant. If you receive a call asking you to send money to stop a warrant please hang up - the call is not coming from a real Ramsey County Deputy.

Government agencies do not call people and ask for money via the phone or via pre-paid credit card. This scam, or theft by swindle and fraud, has been attempted throughout the country over the past few years by thieves posing as various government agents. The "wanted on a warrant" scam has been attempted in Ramsey County previously.

If you have been a victim of this, or any scam, please call 9-1-1 and report it to your local law enforcement agency.

If you received this scam call, avoided becoming a victim, and have a caller ID number from the suspect, please send that information in an email to AskSheriff@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Active Ramsey County Arrest Warrants can be searched online using the [Warrant Search](#) service on the www.RamseyCountySheriff.us website. Information about warrants and how to resolve them are also available on this website.

[Ramsey County Warrant Search](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES



Front Entrance Raingarden Nearing Completion

Thanks to a grant from the Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed and the North Oaks Homeowner's Association, the raingarden the front entrance of North Oaks is nearly complete. This project aimed to address erosion in the area and harness stormwater from the area and treat it before discharging it to the rest of the watershed.

For more information about this project on the VLAWMO webpage, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2z4cstjr>, and check it out in person at Hwy 96 and Pleasant Lake Road.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

- **City Council** – Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. (*2 weeks later than usual)
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from 7.25.23 Planning Commission Mtg
- Role of City Forester
- Update on Complaint Policy
- Night to Unite
- Minnesota State Fair ticket links
- Ralph Reeder Back to School Project drop-off
- Coexisting with Coyote
- Emerald Ash Borer video links
- Oak Wilt Status High

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

[City Calendar](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750



HOURS
Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4
PM
Fri: 9AM to 12PM
[Email Us](#)



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Eblast for the Week of 8.18.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

City Council Meeting Next Thursday

The August City Council meeting will take place next Thursday, August 24th at 7 p.m. Some of the agenda topics include a City Forester update, a DNR presentation on wildlife management, long-term infrastructure utility plan, and city security initiatives.

The full agenda packet can be found on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting. Visit the calendar entry [HERE](#) for updates.



Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice



There will be a public hearing as part of the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, July 31st at 7 p.m. to review a Conditional Use Permit application request at 12 Columbine Road for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet.

Notification letters have been sent to neighbors of adjacent properties and published in the Shoreview Press. The full meeting notices and methods for participation can be found [HERE](#).



Keep Our Community Beautiful

Branch / Rubbish Removal Across Community

As storm cleanup continues across our community, the City asks residents to take a fresh look at all sides of your property to ensure downed branches, piles of old wood and other rubbish items are picked up and kept out of view. This increase in fallen and broken trees along roadsides has been particularly noticeable after the big storm last month. In addition, the Operation Clearview initiative requires residents to keep brush / limbs trimmed back 5 feet from road and 12 feet up to ensure clear lines of site for those traveling and walking our roads.

As a reminder, Mel's services clears downed trees from roads that are safety hazards, however it is each property owner's responsibility to remove the wood/debris that has been left behind and pushed to the side of the road. Tree companies may be backed up due to storm clean up, therefore please reach out and get on their schedule.

Need help finding a company to remove trees/branches/ brush?[HERE](#) is the list of arborists / tree companies that have been certified to do work in the City of North Oaks. Brush can also be hauled to local Ramsey County Yard Waste Collection sites: [Yard Waste | Ramsey County](#)

Thanks to everyone for doing their part to keep our beautiful, wooded community a place of pride.

Stay on Marked Trails

The North Oaks Homeowners Association has miles of private designated trails. ONLY residents and their invited guests (when with a resident) may use the trails.

As you navigate our community, please stay on marked trails and do not cut through private resident property. Residents are reporting an increased frequency of trespassing on private property without permission, causing concern for safety of children & pets, and a lack of respect for private property.



Please be good neighbors and stay on marked trails throughout our community.

COMMUNITY NEWS

North Oaks Farm Fest

Sunday, September 10, 3-7 p.m.

Hosted by the Hill Farm Historical Society

Mark your calendars for Farm Fest 2023! Farm Fest will be from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Hill Farm located at 35 Hill Farm Circle. Parking is available at the West Recreation Center at 14 W. Pleasant Lake Road, and a trolley will provide free transportation from West Rec to Farm Fest.

Farm Fest truly offers something for everyone!

- Delicious grilled food and baked pies, craft beer, and wine
- Silent Auction
- Live blacksmith demonstration
- Live music and entertainment
- Magician
- Petting zoo
- Pony rides
- “Cow” milking and butter-making
- Farmers’ market, featuring local produce and products
- Building tours and exhibits
- And much more!

For more information about Farm Fest or the Hill Farm Historical Society, and opportunities to volunteer or donate, visit: [Hill Farm Historical Society](#)

Farm Fest Volunteers Needed

Volunteers Needed! This annual community event takes place on Sunday, September 10th from 3 – 7 p.m. If you or your older child would like to sign up to help make Farm Fest 2023 a great experience, please click on the link below.

One-hour shifts are available, and it is a great opportunity for high school students to earn service hours.



I'd like to
volunteer!

North Oaks Rummage Sale - Donation & Sale Dates Quickly Approaching

Save the date for the biggest Rummage sale of the Year! This event is organized by the North Oaks Guild II and is a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital Association (CHA). You can donate unwanted but usable items from your homes, businesses and garages to this great event. The donation drop-off date is **Saturday, September 9th from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.** at the Shoreview Ice Arena.

The Rummage Sale takes place:

- Shoreview Ice Arena, 877 Co. Highway 96, Shoreview, MN
- Saturday, September 16th, 2023: 7 – 9 a.m. (\$5 early admission); 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (no admission charge)
- Sunday, September 17th, 2023: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (no admission charge and most items are ½ price)

Refer to the rummage sale website for complete details of accepted items and pictures from past sales.

[Visit the Rummage Sale Website](#)



SAFETY

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: Home and Auto Theft Prevention

In recent weeks, juvenile and other more serious crime incidents have been on the rise. There have been multiple reports of car theft and tampering in the last 2 weeks within North Oaks. Remember to keep garage doors closed and cars in driveways locked. Be aware of unusual activity in our

community and report it immediately to 911.

The City, NOHOA and the Ramsey County Sheriff's department are working together to address recent crimes in the community and how to prevent further criminal activity. There will be a discussion on this topic at the upcoming City Council meeting on Thursday, August 24th at 7 p.m.



[View Car Safety Tips](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES



Department of Natural Resources at City Council Meeting

The DNR will be presenting at next Thursday, August 24th City Council 7:00 p.m. meeting to talk about deer, turkey and waterfowl management. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

- **City Council** – Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. (*2 weeks later than usual)
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Introduction to new Eblast
- Night to Unite Event Summary and Pictures
- Hill Farm Fest 9/10- Save the date!
- Phone Scam Advisory - What to look For
- North Oaks Front Entrance Raingarden- links to VLAWMO project

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

100 Village Center Drive, #230
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HOURS
Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4 PM
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[Unsubscribe northoaks@northoaksmn.gov](mailto:northoaks@northoaksmn.gov)

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Eblast for the Week of 8.25.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Highlights from the Thursday, August 24th City Council Meeting

- Council approved consent agenda items including: new arborist and mechanical licenses, liquor license for Farm Fest, Ramsey County Sherriff's Office Interagency Agreement, minutes of the City Council 7.13.2023 and Special City Council 7.12.23 meetings.
- Ben Welinski, Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Wildlife Services presented on Wildlife Management services available to the City, including deer, goose, turkey and beaver management.
- Deputy Lassegard and Jeff Ramacher, Undersheriff of Public Safety Services for the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office gave a report on crime in the City and how the Sheriff's office works to combat crime. Residents also shared comments and concerns about a recent rise in criminal activity and their desire for measures to be put in place to reduce this activity. Councilor John Shuman presented his recommendations for the City to adopt an Emergency Notification system and License Plate Reader cameras at various entrances throughout the City. The Council asked Councilor Shuman to work with NOHOA, RCSO and the City Attorney to develop a

- plan for how these measures could be implemented in the City.
- Sambatek engineering presented a revised plan and scope of services for developing a Master Infrastructure Plan for the City of North Oaks. This would be a long-term plan for how to improve key areas of infrastructure over time in the City. City Council accepted the proposal with support from Andrew Hawkins, President of the NOHOA Board.
- City Council made plans to host an informational table at Farm Fest on Sunday, September 10th at the Hill Farm historic site. This will be a great opportunity to connect with residents and provide sign up opportunities for the City Eblast or to be a neighborhood block captain.
- Council approved the 9th Amendment to the East Oaks Planned Unit Development Agreement. This amendment clarifies how Floor Area Ratios should be calculated, as well as the location of sidewalks in side-yard setbacks, setbacks from property lines, and the separation of driveways for attached twin homes.
- Council approved several amendments to City Code Chapters 34 and 151, Planning Commission composition and Comprehensive Plan, resolutions of summary publication.

Residents can watch the full City Council meeting [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS



Minnesota State Fair

The Great Minnesota Get-Together is August 24-September 4!

To find details on food, entertainment and transportation, including Park and Ride locations close to the City of North Oaks, visit: www.mnstatefair.org

SAFETY

Safety Tips for Extreme Heat

Hot and humid temperatures caused excessive heat this past week. During hot weather, remember to take extra precautions to stay safe. Find tips for managing extreme heat from Ramsey County, including public cooling spaces and tip sheets from the CDC:

[Extreme Heat | Ramsey County](#)



Ramsey County Sherriff Update

Deputy Lassegard's report for the past month includes:

241 CALLS FOR SERVICE

(includes crime, medicals, false alarms, property damage, traffic stops, assistance calls, and more).

NOTABLE

- Graffiti on the playground equipment West Rec.
- Spring Farm Road area problems: Dumpster diving, collecting rocks, prospective buyers, and thefts.
- Trespassing and utility vehicles.
- 1 Soliciting call.
- Less fishing calls.
- 21 Traffic stops.

THEFTS

- August motor vehicle thefts (4).
- Close garage doors.
- Do not leave keys in your car.

FRAUD

- Targeting elderly people. Dating apps, fixing computer, pretending to be a deputy, billing mistakes, and calls regarding Amazon purchases.
- Anyone who asks for Gift card for payment is a fraud - **hang up** and do not answer again.



[Watch Monthly Sherriff Update](#) (57 minute mark)

NATURAL RESOURCES

**Become a
Recycling
Ambassador**

ramseycounty.us/RecyclingAmbassador

RAMSEY COUNTY

Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program

Registration for the fall Recycling Ambassador Program training is now open. Recycling Ambassadors undergo a six-week training to learn more about environmental health.

Using knowledge gained, Recycling Ambassadors volunteer 20 hours or more annually to encourage others to reduce, reuse and recycle.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **Planning Commission** –
Thursday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday,
September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Branch/Brush Removal Reminders and Information
- Trail Usage and Private Property Reminders
- Hill Farm Historical Society Farm Fest - Save the Date and Volunteer Sign up links
- North Oaks Rummage Sale Save the Date and Donation Information
- Home and Auto Theft Prevention Reminders

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750

HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4 PM
Fri: 9AM to 12PM
[Email Us](#)



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Eblast for the Week of 9.1.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Highlights from the Thursday, August 31st Planning Commission Meeting

- Approved Planning Commission Minutes of 7.27.2023
- Recommended approval of CUP #23-5 for excess garage space at 12 Columbine Lane. Application moves on to City Council for final review.
- Discussed amending Ordinance 151 of City Code re: sign Definitions and Signs in the RSM-District, including digital signage.
- Discussed Ordinance 151 of the City Code regarding both ground and rooftop mounted Solar.
 - *A public hearing will take place on September 28th regarding the proposed Signage and Solar Ordinance amendments.
- Discussed CUP requirements for excess home height, garage space, and others to evaluate if adjustments need to be made to address current building styles. Discussions will continue within the Ordinance working subgroup and brought back for further discussion.
- Planning Commission to tour new development construction sites on September 14th.

Residents can watch the full City Council meeting [HERE](#).

City Hall Office Closure - Monday, September 4th

The North Oaks City Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Happy Labor Day, North Oaks!



[History of Labor Day | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#)



Exterior Lighting Complaints

With the introduction of LED bulbs, there has been an increase in light complaints in the City. When purchasing LED bulbs, please be aware not all LED lights are the same. There are a variety of wattage and intensity options to provide soft light (but not light up the neighborhood like a Walmart parking lot).

City Ordinance 151.053 also requires that lights be "down-shielded", the direct bulb source not be viewed at any angle, and not spilling into neighbors' yards to impact others. When purchasing LED bulbs and making new light fixture selections, please consider the intensity and impact on neighbors and wildlife. Refer below for more information.

[What are the Exterior Lighting Regulations?](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

NO Recycling Changes After Labor Day

There will be NO recycling changes the week of the Labor Day holiday in North Oaks. Please set your bin out by 7 a.m. on your regularly scheduled day.

Your garbage service provider may have a different schedule. Remember to contact them directly to determine if pick-up is scheduled for a different day.



Locking Mailboxes

The City of North Oaks has three remaining locking



mailboxes in-stock and available for purchase. These are the smaller, "Mail Manager" size and are available for \$100 each. More information is available on the City website [HERE](#).

To reserve a mailbox, call 651-792-7750 or email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Farm Fest Needs Volunteers!

Q: How did the farmer find his lost cow?

A: He tractor down

Volunteers are still needed to supervise the kids' games at North Oaks' biggest community event. Have as much fun as the kids at Farm Fest on **unday, September 10!** One-hour shifts are available. Sign up using the link below:



Volunteer Sign Up



County Road J / 35E Interchange Project

County Road J from Centerville Road to Otter Lake Road – including the interchange with I-35E – is scheduled for reconstruction in 2025. Ramsey County is leading the project in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Anoka County, White Bear Township, North Oaks and Lino Lakes.

The existing I-35E and County Road J interchange –and the surrounding area – has several safety, congestion and access issues that impact pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Additional development is expected near the interchange in the next five years, which will increase traffic and worsen safety issues.

Three areas are targeted for improvement:

- The I-35E and County Road J interchange.
- County Road J from Centerville Road to Otter Lake Road.
- Centerville Road from County Road J to North Ash Street.
- View the maps of [proposed alternatives](#).

SAFETY

School Back in Session - Bus Safety

As schools start returning on our streets for the 2023-24 schoolyear, be extra careful as children enter and exit buses and cross streets.

- Watch out for kids walking to and from bus stops.
- Both lanes of traffic on roads must stop school when the bus yellow/red lights are flashing and the "stop-arm" is extended.
- If you are behind a stopped school bus, do NOT pass it. Wait until all students are safely off the bus and the bus moves forward.
- Watch out for children crossing the street in front of the bus.
- The speed limit in all of North Oaks is maximum of 30 mph (*20 mph in Rapp Farm development). Watch your speed.



Here's to a safe schoolyear!

NATURAL RESOURCES



MN State Parks and Trails Hiking and Passport Clubs

Late summer/early fall is a great time to explore the outdoors in Minnesota. The Minnesota DNR Hiking club can help you discover new destinations and spend time outdoors while earning rewards.



For more information about the Hiking and Passports Clubs, visit: [Hiking and Passport Clubs | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday, Sept. 9. This “Free Park Day” is one of four days each year on which the Minnesota DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas.



Most Minnesotans live within 30 miles of a state park to allow visitors to enjoy many activities such as swimming beaches, hiking, biking, walking, rolling on paths or having a picnic. Visitors looking for certain recreational opportunities or amenities can use the **ParkFinder tool** to find the best state park or recreation area for their trip.

[DNR ParkFinder Tool](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** – Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from the August 24th City Council Meeting
- State Fair Park and Ride Information
- Safety Tips for Extreme Heat
- Ramsey County Sheriff Updates
- Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



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Eblast for the Week of 9.8.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

City Council Meeting - Date Shift / Public Hearing Notice

Due to scheduling issues, the September City Council meeting has shifted a week to Thursday, September 21st, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. As part of the Council meeting, there will be a public hearing as noted below.

City Council Public Hearing - Cannabis Business Moratorium

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of North Oaks will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN, at which meeting the City Council will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to solicit input from members of the public related to the potential adoption of an interim ordinance (moratorium) prohibiting the establishment or operation of a cannabis business within the City of North Oaks until January 1, 2025, or such earlier time as the interim ordinance is rescinded. A copy of the proposed interim ordinance is available in the office of the City Clerk, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN.

Members of the public are welcomed to attend to provide feedback or email input to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or kkress@northoaksmn.gov. Refer to the Public Hearing notice for complete details.

Public Hearing Notice - Cannabis Moratorium

Planning Commission Public Hearings

There will be two Public Hearings as part of the Thursday, September 28th, 2023 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission meeting. Refer to the information below and links to the full meeting notices. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input, or email comments to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.



Public Hearing - Signage in RSM District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of North Oaks will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN, at which meeting the Planning Commission will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on an **Ordinance** amending **City Code Title XV, Chapter 151**, regarding sign definitions and signs in the **RSM-Residential Single-Family Medium Density District**.

Public Hearing Notice - Signage

Public Hearing - Solar Energy Systems Ordinance

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of North Oaks will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2023, in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, North Oaks, MN, at which meeting the Planning Commission will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on an **Ordinance Amending City Code Title XV, Chapter 151** adding **Section 151.035, Solar Energy Systems**.

Public Hearing Notice - Solar



City Table - Farm Fest

Stop by the City table at Farm Fest Sunday, September 10th between 3 - 7 p.m. Chat with City Councilors about issues important to you, sign up to be a Neighborhood watch block captain, and our eblast. The Homeowners Association will also have a separate table to discuss items within their responsibilities.

Don't Miss a Minute of Fun at Farm Fest!

For those who like to plan ahead, here's a handy schedule of events for Farm Fest this Sunday, September 10. Parking is free (there will be a trolley to/from West Rec, 14 W. Pleasant Lake Rd.) and there is plenty to entertain—and feed!—the entire family. We hope to see you there!



SPECIAL EVENTS

3–5:30 p.m. Butter Making

3–5:30 p.m. Cow Milking

3–6 p.m. Reptile Demonstration

3:30–5:30 p.m. David Farr, Roving Magician

5–6:45 p.m. Bingo (on the half hour)

SILENT AUCTION

3–6:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES throughout the day:

- Trolley Rides to/from West Rec/Hill Farm
- Building Tours
- Blacksmith Demonstrations
- Whiteknuckles Blue Grass Band
- Food and Drink
- Farmers Market
- Pony Rides
- Train Rides
- Petting Zoo
- Games Pavilion

Farm Fest is hosted by the North Oaks Hill Farm Historical Society. HFHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Hill Farm National Historic Site. Contributions to HFHS are tax deductible and are integral to cover the costs of repair and maintenance to the historic buildings located at Hill Farm. Revenue generated from Farm Fest helps keep our North Oaks history alive!

For more information about how to join in the fun that is Farm Fest, visit our newly updated website at hillfarmhistoricalsociety.com.

Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off Tomorrow

Tomorrow is the last opportunity to donate items for the North Oaks Women's Guild Rummage sale, taking place next weekend in support of the Children's Hospital Association.

2023 FALL DROP-OFF DATE:

Saturday, September 9th, 9AM – 1PM



Shoreview Ice Arena, 877 Co. Hwy. 96, Shoreview, MN

*Please only donate items in condition that you would give to a friend. If we can't sell it or pass it on, we must pay disposal fees. Drop-off volunteers have the right to refuse items. *

North Oaks Rummage Sale
Website

SAFETY

Ramsey County Sheriff's office - September 2023 Block Captain Newsletter



The Ramsey County Block Captain newsletter features the following newsletter articles:

- Walk and Bike Safety Education for K-8 students now required.
- School Bus Reminders and examples for motorists.
- Thank you and pictures from Night to Unite event around the 7 communities they support.
- National Preparedness Month tips
- Fire Prevention Week Save the Date - Oct. 8-14th
- Donation Awareness - Tips for making sure your donations count.
- Fall Clean up Do's and Don'ts

Excerpts from two of the featured articles are below.

[View Full Block Captain Newsletter](#)



September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3".

The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-

hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

[Learn More: Nation Preparedness Month](#)



Fall cleanup can be a Nightmare - Tips

Cities, county, and law enforcement receive many complaints during fall clean up that cause issues in our community. Important things to note:

DON'T

- Don't blow Leaves, dirt, clippings into the street or neighboring properties. Why? Drivers/pedestrians can get blinded by debris; clogs drains; impedes stormwater flow.
- Do not burn leaves in your yard.
- Do not throw them in the trash.
- Don't blow leaves at the crack of dawn or late at night due to local noise ordinances.
- When driving to compost sites, secure your load of flyaway items.
- Just because the sweeper is coming, doesn't mean they can pick up your leaves.

DO

- It's important to keep the drains clear before the ice dams appeared, both in the road and your gutters
- Know your local compost locations and hours. Ramsey County operates seven yard waste collection sites. All sites are free and open to Ramsey County residents. Click below for details.

[Ramsey County Collection Site Location and Hours](#)

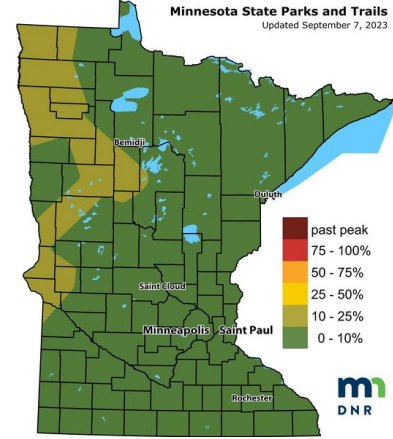
NATURAL RESOURCES

The Fall Color Finder map is Live!

from MN DNR Facebook page

Each week in the fall, Minnesota state parks and trails staff report the color changes they see in their area. They also write updated descriptions and tips for each park! The reports are compiled and updated on our Fall Color Map. If you love following along with the map, give any staff you see out in the field an extra smile, wave, or 'thanks'—they help make it all possible

See the Latest Fall Leaf Reports



REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** – Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.
**new date*
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

City Calendar

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from the August 31st Planning Commission Meeting
- Exterior Lighting Reminders
- Locking Mailboxes Available for purchase
- County Road J/35E Interchange Project
- School Bus Safety Reminder
- MN DNR Updates - Hiking and Passport Clubs, free park entrance on Saturday Sept. 9th

View Last Week's E-Blast

North Oaks



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Eblast for the Week of 9.15.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Special City Council Meetings - Next week

There is a possible quorum of City Council at 2 events taking place next week, as well as the regular monthly City Council meeting:



- Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. - Presentation at Lake Johanna Fire Department at 5545 Lexington Avenue to discuss funding / contracts with City part of the consortium.
- Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall as part of the Security workshop (see below for details).
- Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. - Special City Council (this is the regular monthly meeting pushed back 1 week from the regular meeting date).



City Council Security Workshop - Wednesday, September 20th, 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00 p.m., Security Integrators Convergint and Genetec will meet with City Council, NOHOA and the North Oaks Company to discuss their Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and License Plate Recognition products. They will answer questions regarding data and privacy concerns.

Residents are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place in the Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. It will also be broadcast via Nine North. Residents can attend the meeting in-person, via zoom, or view via Nine North here: [North Oaks, Minnesota - CTV North Suburbs Produced Video Content \(ninenorth.org\)](#)

Complete details can be found [HERE](#).

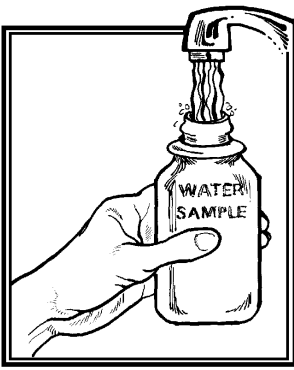
Special City Council Meeting / Public Hearing - Thursday, September 21st, 7 p.m.

The regular September City Council meeting will take place next Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

This meeting will include a Public Hearing to solicit input from members of the public, related to the potential adoption of an interim ordinance (moratorium) prohibiting the establishment or operation of a cannabis businesses within the City of North Oaks until January 1, 2025, or such earlier time as the interim ordinance is rescinded.

The public is encouraged to provide feedback in person or by emailing kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

View City Council Agenda Packet / Viewing
Links



Superfund Site - Ground Water Sampling of Select Homes

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), in conjunction with Whirlpool Corporation (Whirlpool), Arconic, and GHD Services Inc. (GHD) is coordinating a routine groundwater sampling event of residential wells of some private wells during the period from September 26-28, 2023. The groundwater sampling is a remedial action activity associated with the 1993 Highway 96 State Superfund Site located in White Bear Township.

The 28 residential wells designated for sampling this round will receive a letter with information on who to contact to schedule the sampling. The wells are part of **Sampling Group A** which includes selected addresses on: Buffalo, Eagle Ridge, East Oaks, Hummingbird, Poplar, Quail, Ski, Thompson and West Shore. All residential well samples will be analyzed for volatile organic compounds and chloride. Whirlpool and Reynolds are paying for sample collection and laboratory analyses, so there is no cost to you. This sampling is voluntary, and residents can choose whether to participate.

For those residents wishing to conduct water sampling of their own well water, refer to the [Minnesota Department of Health list of accredited water testing laboratories accepting private samples](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rummage Sale This Weekend

The North Oak Rummage Sale is this weekend!

The North Oaks Rummage sale will be held at the Shoreview Ice Arena on Saturday and Sunday September 16th and Sunday September 17th. Saturday hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (early bird admission 7-9 a.m. is \$5), Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The arena is located at 877 County Highway 96, Shoreview, MN.



Proceeds from this great event go to fund programs at Children's Minnesota, which are supported by Children's Hospital Association (CHA). For more information, including hours and directions, click the

link below:

North Oaks Rummage Sale Website

SAFETY

Farm Fest Recap - Neighborhood Watch

Thank you to all the North Oaks residents who stopped out to visit with Deputy Lassegard and City Councilors at the City of North Oaks table at Farm Fest last weekend. It was a wonderful community building event, and we loved meeting and greeting residents and sharing information about security in our community. Those interested in signing up to being part of the Neighborhood watch program can sign up below.

Ramsey County Neighborhood Watch



NATURAL RESOURCES



Wilkinson Lake Deep-Water Wetland Restoration Project

Now underway, a joint effort by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, VLAWMO and the North Oaks Company is now underway to improve the water quality in Wilkinson Lake. View the summary, plans and images of the project below.

[View Wilkinson Lake Project Information](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

[Upcoming City Meetings/Events](#)

[Highlights From Last Week's](#)

News:

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **Fire Department Joint City meeting** - Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Security Workshop**– Wednesday, September 20th at 5:00 p.m.
- **City Council** – Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.
**new date*
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Public Hearing Notice - Solar Energy Systems
- Public Hearing Notice - Signage in RCM District
- Public Hearing Notice - Cannabis Business Moratorium
- RCSO September Block Captain Newsletter
- National Preparedness Month
- Fall Cleanup Tips
- Fall Color Finder

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

[City Calendar](#)

North Oaks



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Eblast for the Week of 9.22.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Highlights from Special City Council Meetings

Fire Department Meeting:

- City Council members from North Oaks, Shoreview and Arden Hills attended a presentation at Lake Johanna Fire Department at 5545 Lexington Avenue to discuss funding / contracts.



Security Workshop:

- Security Integrators Converjint and Genetec met with members of City Council, NOHOA and the North Oaks Company to discuss their Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and License Plate Recognition products, and answer questions regarding data and privacy concerns.
- City to meet with Attorney regarding data privacy act and what it would look like if NOHOA could be made the owner / purchaser of the product as a private entity.
- NOHOA to have additional discussions on what that it could look like as Security falls under City purview in the Community. Only Sheriff's

department would have access to the encrypted data under specific conditions.

- North Oaks Company stated they may be open to looking at the Hill Farm condominium as a trial for this product, as well as possible gates.
- No motions were made, informational meeting only.

[View the 9.20.2023 Meeting
HERE](#)

Highlights from September City Council Meeting

- Consent Agenda approved, included: City financials, Mechanical licenses, CUP for excess garage space at 12 Columbine, Minutes of 8.24.23, 3-year City auditor agreement, Amendment to the City's senior housing revenue refunding note at Shoreview Sr. residence project, gambling permit for the Children's Hospital Association Raffle at the North Oaks Golf Club.
- Officer Lassegard shared information about a recent burglary in Waverly Gardens, fraud alert, reminders about watching for children at bus stops and reminders to call 911 in an emergency, NOT Deputy Lassegard. See full report below.
- North Oaks Security Initiatives - Councilor Shuman asked Council to allocate \$45k of funding for an Emergency Notification System and a License Plate Reader system. Funding for the License Plate Reader system would be conditional on several issues being resolved, including: a task force made up of representatives from City Council, City Staff, NOHOA, the North Oaks Company and the RCSO can fully review the system and get all questions of privacy and efficacy answered, the vendor can demonstrate that there is an option for residents to opt-out if they do not want their license plates being read, and City staff and the City attorney can work out issues on who would own the data and whether it would be considered public. This would be a 1-year pilot program that the community would evaluate at the end of the term. Council voted in favor of allocating the funding and moving forward with a task force to further evaluate the License Plate Reader system and whether questions and concerns of data privacy can be resolved.
- Public Hearing re: establishment and operation of cannabis businesses. No residents provided comments. City Attorney Bridget Nason gave a presentation with background on the issue. Council voted in favor of an interim ordinance prohibiting the establishment and operation of cannabis businesses. This interim ordinance will last until January of 2025 and will allow the city to complete a study regarding appropriate time, place and manner restrictions on cannabis businesses.
- City Council voted in favor of an ordinance prohibiting cannabis use in public places.
- Councilor Watson gave an overview of a new Joint Powers Agreement that is being worked out with White Bear Township for municipal water system connections. This agreement would replace the 1999 agreement and would apply to all residents who are currently in the White Bear Township service area. Two key items from the agreement: the municipal water and sewer services agreement will continue, and service will continue to be provided to the development areas outlined in the 1999 PDA.

- City Administrator Kevin Kress gave an overview of the preliminary 2024 budget/levy. Council approved the document. This sets the maximum spending for the coming year, and allows City Staff to work on fine-tuning numbers and reducing costs where possible before finalizing the budget in December 2023. The Truth in Taxation meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 14th at the beginning of the regular City Council meeting. The preliminary budget/levy can be viewed in the City Council packet [HERE](#).

[View the 9.21.2023 City Council Meeting](#)

Winter Storage of Recreational Vehicles

As summer comes to a close, please remember that recreational vehicles such as trailers, campers, and boats are subject to ordinance 151.028(H) which indicates that these items can be out in view for a total of 30 days during a calendar year (i.e. weekends during the summer, etc.), not permanently stored in clear view in front of your home. Please plan accordingly to store your vehicle appropriately during the winter months. The full ordinance is available to view here:

[Land Use Ordinances](#)



COMMUNITY NEWS



Pleasant Lake Safety Tips

Just a reminder that Pleasant Lake Beach is closed as water testing results by Ramsey County currently show elevated levels of E-Coli. Elevated levels may be caused by water conditions, heat, rainstorms, and wildlife. Residents are welcome to use the beach, trails, picnic tables, playground areas - just stay out of the water at this time.

Also beware of decreasing water temperatures. Be sure to wear life vests if out on the lake kayaking, as chilly water can make it more difficult on your body to recover from an overturn.

Enjoy the area as we welcome beautiful Fall!

Fire Department Collecting Donations for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

The Lake Johanna Fire Department is accepting donations for the Ralph Reeder Food shelf.



Lake Johanna Fire Department reports that so far this year they have collected 7,136 lbs. of non-perishable food for **Ralph Reeder Food Shelf**. They appreciate your generous donations so far and time is running out as cold weather is only weeks away. Their collections will continue as long as warm weather allows.

Consider dropping off items at either the Fire Station on Hogston Road, or the main Fire Station on Lexington Avenue (Near Turtle Lake Elementary).

Thank you!!

SAFETY

Deputy Lassegard - Monthly Security Report

214 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN AUGUST 2023.

NOTABLE:

- 2 Burglaries, 3 Motor vehicle thefts. 1 Attempt.
- 3 Soliciting calls. Rapp Farm/Pearson
- 18 Traffic stops.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Be aware of Fraud - asking for donations to Hawaii disaster relief. Validate the source before making donation.
- Lock car doors, remove keys and bags from cars, close garages (even when home)
- Children are back in School - be careful!
- For safety of all, keep dogs on leash
- DO NOT CALL DEPUTY MATT FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUES, call 911.



OTHER

- Block Captain informational meeting @ Ramsey County Sheriff station: 6:30 pm
OCTOBER 17th
- Recreational Fire Rules:
 - Clean natural firewood. NO leaves/grass/hazardous materials.
 - Wind speed below 10 MPH. No accelerants.
 - 25 ft away from structures.
 - Fire pit/ring 3 feet max. Fire should not exceed 3 feet high.
 - Constantly attended with water available.
- Look for Deputy Matt's corner in the monthly North Oaks Newspaper

Have additional information on prior incidents, or non-emergency questions? Contact Deputy Matt 651-448-1890 or Matt.lassegard@co.ramsey.mn.us.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Replacement Trees for Ash Lost to Emerald Ash Borer

by City Forester Mark Rehder

North Oaks is losing thousands of ash trees to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and a very popular question is what can they be replaced with? Replanting sites especially after dramatic events such as firestorms or even beetle infestations are an important component of forestry management and good stewardship. While preferences range from property owner to property owner, the important component is that trees get replanted and replaced. Ash trees are unique in that they prefer moist soils and fairly sunny tops. We often find them in low areas and near wetland edges but they populate the high grounds as well. Considering your plant community is very important when thinking about planting new trees.

Often times the best approach is to replace with what

was lost since you know it already grows well there. This won't work for Ash trees (at least not in the short-term) but there are similar trees to ash that are good replacements.

This list below is based on the University of Minnesota's recommended species for ash replacement and includes trees such as:

- Aspen, Elm, Hackberry, Silver Maple, Birch, Swamp White Oak, Northern White Cedar, Cottonwood

These trees are mostly intended to be placed in the forest or forest edge or where the woodland used to be before EAB. If you are replacing a yard tree lost to EAB, the palette you can choose from is much larger.

[View Ash Replacement Tree Options with Pictures](#)

North Oaks Recycling Results

North Oaks has ranked #4 per capita and #4 per household in Ramsey County in both 2021 and 2022 in recycling (right behind North St. Paul, Maplewood, and White Bear Lake which are much larger). 93% of our households actively recycle. Fantastic job in our community keeping items out of the landfills!



[View more Ramsey County Recycling tips](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Special City Council meeting notices: Fire Department meeting, Security Workshop, City Council Meeting
- North Oaks Superfund Site Water Testing locations 9/26 through 9/28
- Rummage Sale Weekend links

via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

- Farm Fest City Table Recap
- Wilkinson Lake Deep-water Wetland Restoration Project Update

[City Calendar](#)

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

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Eblast for the Week of 9.29.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Highlights from the 9.28.2023 Planning Commission Meeting

- Approved Minutes of the [8.31.2023 Planning Commission Meeting](#)
- Conducted public hearing and discussion on amending City Code Chapter 151 to include ground mounted solar installation processes, establishing a CUP application process and conditions for ground mounted solar in RSM District. Key points include: CUP application submittal and review process, only allowed in RSM zoned district, requires a 10-acre minimum lot size, must be on the side or rear yard, must meet all principal building setbacks, and landscaping is required to buffer the panels. There are only 3 parcels in City that would qualify and none of them are within the North Oaks Homeowners Association boundary. Commission approved recommendation of amendment to City Code Title XV, Chapter 151, regarding solar energy systems Ordinance as drafted, by a vote of 5-1. The recommendation will go before City Council on October 12th.
- Conducted public hearing and discussion on proposed amendment to City Code Chapter 151 regarding signs in the RSM Residential-Single-Family medium Density District. The sign Ordinance amendments would

allow: Electronic center messaging signs in RSM district, with minimum lot size of 3.5 acres, on an arterial or collector street (such as Hodgson), display for minimum of 8 seconds (no flashing), limit sign lighting to 6 a.m. – 11 p.m., and max sign area of 32 sq. feet (only 16 sq. ft. may be ECM). There are 20 lots that would meet these restrictions. Peace United Methodist Church spoke on behalf of their desire for monument and electric messaging sign to replace their current temporary printed signs. Commission approved amendment to Chapter 151 of the City Code regarding signs in the RSM-Residential Single-Family medium Density District as drafted, with the update of allowing both a primary and secondary use of the building on the fixed monument portion of the sign. Motion approved unanimously. The recommendation will go before City Council on October 12th.

- Discussion on amending City Code Chapter 150 regarding garage sizes. Currently the Conditional Use Permit process allows homeowners to go through the application process for garages in excess of 1,500 square feet up to 3,000. This process costs homeowners time, money, as well as City Staff, engineers, planners, City Council, and Planning Commission time and expense. After researching historical data, if all the conditions and setbacks requirements are met in the Ordinance, all CUP applications for excess garage space have been approved. Commission agreed it makes sense to increase the square footage threshold for having to submit a CUP for excess garage Space. A sub-committee will draft a proposed amendment addressing this issue and schedule notice for Public Hearing at the October 26th Planning Commission meeting.
- There will be 2 Planning Commissioner seats up for appointment beginning January 1, 2024. There is a 1-year term completing the remainder of Commission Weins term (resigned due to moving out of country), and one 3-year term. Those with term ending were asked to let the City Administrator know if interested in being considered to serve another term.

[View 9.28.2023 Planning Commission Meeting](#)

Waste and Recycling Bin Reminders:

Please remember to keep waste and recycling bins in garages or screened from view, with the exception of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on collection day. Keeping waste and recycling bins secured and out of site helps prevent theft, wildlife rummaging, and keeps our community beautiful.

For more information about ordinances related to refuse, garbage and waste material, visit:

[General Regulations Ordinances](#)



[New to North Oaks - What now?](#)



Just closed on your new home in North Oaks? Welcome!! You may be asking, what do I do next?

Here's a checklist with helpful links to get to know our unique Community and guide you to who to call for what. These are the most commonly asked questions to the City office.

[Checklist / Summary for New Homeowners](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Prepare for Election Season

The only item on the ballot this election season are 4 seats on the Moundsview School District 621 School Board.

You can [view the MV 621 school board candidate speak out](#) videos to get to know the candidates. There are no White Bear Township school board seats up for reelection. This the only item on the ballot during this election cycle.

There is no early voting at North Oaks City Hall. Early voting is currently taking place at the Ramsey County Election building in St. Paul.

Beginning on October 20th, you may vote early at Roseville Library. Refer [HERE](#) for full early voting options, dates and times.

The regular election voting will take place on Tuesday, November 7th from 7 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Precinct 1 residents vote at City Hall, Precinct 2 residents vote at the North Oaks Golf Club. All residents must vote at their assigned polling locations on Election Day.



[View what's on my Ballot](#)

[Holiday Home Tour - Save the Date](#)

Preparations are underway for the



annual North Oaks Children's Hospital Guild 1 Holiday Home Tour and Boutique.

The home tour runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17th, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, November 18th boarding at the North Oaks Golf Club. The boutique is also at the Golf Club and will run one hour later than the tour on both days. The boutique does not require a ticket to attend.

[Purchase home tour tickets online](#)

SAFETY

Construction work at Wildflower/Hodgson Road Entrance

Those on the west side of North Oaks may have noticed road barriers and construction on Hodgson Road near the Wildflower Place entrance. This work is in preparation for connecting the residents on Anemone Place to Shoreview City water. This work should be complete within the next 10 days. Please use caution when driving in this area.



The City is working with the construction crew and school bus companies to ensure safe passage through this section. Thanks for your patience.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Fall Fun in Minnesota

Fall is here! Check out these links to opportunities such as apple orchards, festivals, scenic drives, apple picking and more, to make the most of the season in our beautiful state:

[10 Things to Do in Minnesota This Fall](#)
[Explore Minnesota](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

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[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from Special and Regular City Council meetings
- Reminders on Winter Storage of Recreational Vehicles
- Pleasant Lake Safety Tips
- Fire Department Food Drive for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf
- Article from the City Forester on Replacement Trees for those lost to Emerald Ash Borer
- Deputy Lassegard Monthly Security Report
- North Oaks Recycling Results

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 10.7.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

City Office Closure - Monday, October 9th

North Oaks City Hall will be closed Monday, October 9th in observance of the Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day holidays.

Learn more about these historic holidays below:

[Columbus Day](#)
[Indigenous People's Day](#)

City Council Meeting 10.6.2023

The City Council meeting taking place next Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. will include (but not limited to):

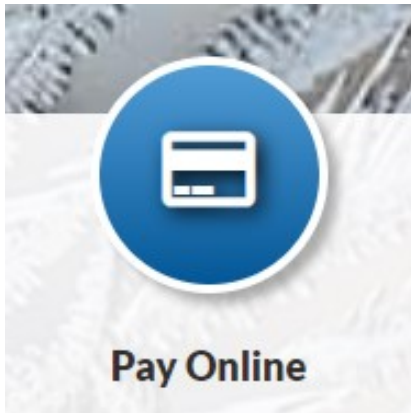
- Appearance by State Senator Heather Gustafson
- Presentation by City Forester Mark Rehder

- Consider Ordinance amending City Code Title XV, Chapter 151, regarding Solar Energy Systems
- Consider Ordinance amending Chapter 151 of City Code regarding signs in the RSM District



The full agenda packet will be available on the link below on Monday. Residents are welcomed to attend in person, via zoom, or monitor through Computer or Cable Channel 16.

[City Council Draft Agenda / Meeting Links](#)



3rd Quarter Water / Sewer Bills

For those on Shoreview Sewer/Water, the 3rd quarter invoices have been mailed. If you will be paying your bill online, please select the "water/sewer" payment option to ensure it gets posted to the correct account. (*2.75% credit card surcharge will apply).

Residents are more than welcome to pay by check via mail or in person at the City office.

[Pay my Bill Online](#)

Save the Date! Santa's Holiday Ride through North Oaks

Santa will be taking his annual ride through North Oaks on top a Lake Johanna Firetruck spreading good cheer on Sunday December 3rd from 3 - 5 p.m. Immediately following will be the Homeowners Association Winterfest event at the West Recreation Center. More details come as we get closer to these events.



COMMUNITY NEWS



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Candidates Forum: Mounds View School District

The 2023 Candidates for Mounds View School District 621 School Board participated in a League of Women Voters (LWV) Candidates Forum at the New Brighton Community Center.

Participating candidates (alphabetically):

Heidi Caccamo, Alissa Daire Nelson, Heidi Danielson, James DeMay, Mark Kelliher, Andre M. Koen, Rich Priore and Paul Wikstrom.

[View Candidate Forum](#)

Local Family Events

Support our neighbors at the City of Shoreview this upcoming week.

Touch-A-Truck: Saturday, October 7th

- 9 am - noon
- Shoreview Community Center, lower-level parking lot
- Kids - Hop in the seat of snowplow, dump truck and more! Free



Kids' Garage Sale: Saturday, October 7th

- 9 am - noon
- Haffeman Pavilion
- Free to browse, items for purchase

Farmers Market: Tuesday, October 10th

- 3 pm - 6 pm
- This is the last outdoor Farmer's Market of the Season!



Fire Prevention Week

As part of national fire prevention week, the Lake Johanna Fire Prevention Open House is scheduled for Tuesday Oct. 10th at 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Station located at 5545 Lexington Avenue N., Shoreview, MN 55126. Attractions include safety truck, fire trucks, and more.

They are still in need of food shelf donations. The fire department has collected 6,452 lbs. of food so far to date, but our friends at Ralph Reeder Food Shelf still need our help before the temperature plummets. They ask all who attend to bring non-perishable food to donate when you attend.

Holiday Home Tour - Registration update

With holiday excitement, looks like we jumped ahead too quickly publishing the registration link for the Holiday Home tour. The wonderful Women's

Guild 1 elves are busy putting the final touches on the 2023 website to register for the Holiday Home tour. Apologies for any confusion. Save the 11/17-18 event dates and stay tuned for the 2023 website to be live soon!



SAFETY



Reminder: Motorbikes / ATV's Not Permitted on North Oaks Trails

There have been reports of motorbikes being used on North Oaks trails in recent weeks. Please remember, North Oaks Traffic Code prohibits the use of ATVs, mini-bikes, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles on private property such as North Oaks trails. The full ordinances are available here: [title_vii_07_-_traffic_code.pdf \(northoaksmn.gov\)](https://www.northoaksmn.gov/files/ordinances/title_vii_07_-_traffic_code.pdf)

If you encounter the use of such vehicles on North Oaks Trails, please contact 911 to provide a description of the incident.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Looking For Resident Photographs of North Oaks

The City is highlighting resident photographs which display the beauty of our natural community in all seasons. If you would be willing to share your amazing photographs to possibly be displayed in the City Council Chambers or in City offices, please email them to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov by Friday, November 4th.



Alternately, you may also bring them to the City office on a jump drive Monday-Friday between 9 – Noon, and we'll transfer them into our system. You will be asked to sign a copyright release if the photos are used. Any questions, contact City Hall at 651-792-7750.

[Email City Hall](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

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[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from the September Planning Commission Meeting
- Waste/Recycling Bin Reminders
- New to North Oaks Tips
- Mounds View School Board Election
- Holiday Home Tour
- Construction Work at Wildflower/Hodgson
- Fall Fun in Minnesota

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 10.13.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS



Highlights from City Council Meeting 10.12.2023

- Council had a moment of silence to honor the passing of longtime resident Joan Brainard. Joan was one of the original residents of North Oaks and some of her many contributions include; City Councilor, founder of the North Oaks News, and co-author of the North Oaks historical book "Three Bold Ventures". Her sharp mind, knowledge and love for the well-being of the North Oaks Community was evident in every phone call made to the City

and Councilors, and every article written to express her views. She was an invaluable resource to the community and will be greatly missed.

- Resident Kingston spoke in support of ground solar. Resident and NOHOA Board Member Long, encouraged residents to review and vote on NOHOA budget which focused on a "Roads 1st" priority.
- Deputy Lassegard provided his monthly report. Two burglaries are under investigation.
- Appearance by State Senator Heather Gustafson to introduce herself. She invited Council to share any concerns with her and highlighted new legislation which provides dollars for public safety initiatives: Ramsey County Sherriff's office was allocated 6 million to help meet needs. She has toured Lake Johanna's Fire Department and they hope to focus budget next year on Fire and EMS needs. SRO's are back in schools. There was an increase in school funding: 7.8 million to Moundview in 2024, White Bear Township will receive 7.4 million in 2024.
- Presentation by City Forester Mark Rehder included discussion on:
 - Update on storm response and possible development of a City preparation / vendor resource plan in future.
 - Operation Clearview focus is on intersections making sure cars can navigate safely corners with good sightlines. Winter is good time to trim branches of those encroaching on roads.
 - At least 1,000 diseased Emerald Ash Borer trees have been removed in the Community. Focus is on main thoroughfare and will continue marking diseased trees over the winter. City plans to order 500 seedlings to arrive in May to give out to residents. Might look at purchase bare root trees to help residents most severely impacted by Ash disease.
- Lake Johanna Fire Department District. Arden Hills turned down the Fire Department request to change the structure of the Fire Board to a Fire District model. Shah noted prefer to stick with current model that has worked in past. Watson also agreed with denial, but noted there are items in the current governance model that could use revision. Motion approved to support not supporting the Fire District model.
- Discussion on RCSO contract. Overall City budget is proposed at 9.6% increase, and Ramsey County Sheriffs contract is increasing to 11.2% in 2024. North Oaks is allocated 3.75 FTE's. Council would like some measure of service that we are paying for, and additional visible law enforcement presence. A workshop will be set to discuss security options to ensure best use of funds and service contract moving forward.
- Discussed White Bear Lake Township Joint Powers Agreement. The new document will likely be broken down into 2 agreements: water and sewer systems. White Bear Township will provide sewer only to new Red Forest Way South area, not water at this time. Resolution 1496 was approved to amend the Comp plan to reflect Red Forest way will connect to sewer only, and escrow will be put in place to fund repairs.
- Considered Ordinance amending City Code Title XV, Chapter 151, regarding Solar Energy Systems. There is no NOHOA ASC policy on ground mounted solar panels. Discussion on whether it should be expanded to be more inclusive option for smaller lots or more restrictive to larger lots. Motion

- approved to continue discussion to November Council meeting.
- Considered Ordinance amending Chapter 151 of City Code regarding signs in the RSM District. Resolution 1497 approved to allow digital signage via CUP process for RSM zoned properties on arterial collector streets.
 - Councilor Shuman reported the emergency notification system working with the City to get implemented. Genetec working on an opt out feature on license plate reader cameras and working on data ownership issue. The North Oaks Company is ready to install readers on poles on new Centerville Road locations when given authority. Information given to Rapp Farm to determine if they want to be part of initial pilot program. Looking to bring in vendor for residents to home security information.
 - There was a joint stakeholder meeting with NOHOA in the afternoon to highlight current projects.
 - City Administrator noted NOHOA has requested Council to consider funds for road striping. Will discuss possible funding of various items for 2024 during workshop. Charley Lake townhome water connection to Shoreview water is in progress. Deer tags will be requested from DNR, and have them come speak to Council to present options. Ramsey County plans for reconstruction to of County Road J interchange will be forwarded to Council.

[View 10.12.2023 City Council Meeting](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

World Stroke Day - October 29

In honor of World Stroke Day coming up on October 29th, the Minnesota Department of Health encourages everyone to learn the warning signs and get help immediately. Because “time lost can be brain loss”, it is important to know the signs of stroke and err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1.

An easy way to remember how to recognize a stroke is “BE FAST:”

B – Balance loss. Does the person have sudden loss of balance or coordination?

E – Eyesight changes. Is eyesight suddenly blurred or double? Is there a sudden loss of vision?

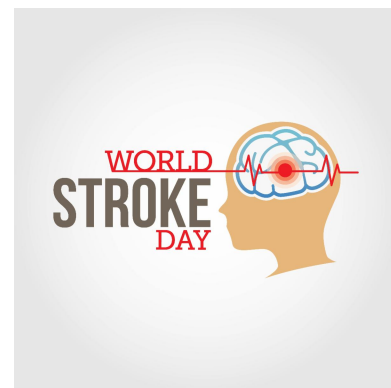
F - Face drooping. Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile.

A – Arm weakness. Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S – Speech difficulty. Is speech slurred, are they unable to speak, or are they are they hard to understand?

T – Time to call 9-1-1.

If the person shows ANY of these symptoms, even if



the symptoms go away, call 9- 1-1 and get them to a hospital immediately.

American Stroke Association - World Stroke Day

SAFETY



Deputy Matt - Monthly Security Report

229 CALLS FOR SERVICE (including Police Proactive Visits at Chippewa Middle School.

NOTABLE:

- One incident involving two burglaries Wilkinson Lake under investigation.
- Theft of mail at North Mallard Court.
- Ring cameras helpful. If have additional information on incident, call **Non-emergency 651-767-0640 or 911.**
- Multiple theft from auto/criminal damage to property South Point Park.
- Suspicious
 - 2 trespassers Cited for speeding/warned.
 - 1 suspicious black car – possible city inspector employee
- 37 Traffic Stops

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Fraud. Request to elderly resident to send cash. When in doubt contact bank.
- School bus safety: Stay 20 feet behind bus when lights on. Passing a stopped bus is an arrestable offense.
- Leaving for winter? Email Matt.Lassegard@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US with address and anticipated date of return to be put on the house watch list. Connect with neighbors to share plans, and keep driveways shoveled.

****DO NOT CALL DEPUTY MATT FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUES. CALL 911.**

OTHER

- Block Captain informational meeting **6:30pm OCTOBER 17th @ Ramsey County Sheriff station, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive in Arden Hills**

Look for Deputy Matt's corner in the North Oaks Newspaper

Street Safety - Watch for Pedestrians / Bikes / Animals

With the shortening days and increased dark hours, please drive safely, and watch for pedestrians and bicyclists on our narrow winding roads. The speed limit is 30 mph throughout North Oaks (20 mph in Rapp Farm).



If you will be out on our community streets early morning or after dusk, please wear bright reflective clothing for your safety.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Fall Colors Going Fast - Get outside!

Get out and enjoy the fall colors before they disappear. Here is another reminder that the MN DNR Fall Color Finder map is Live!

Each week in the fall, Minnesota state parks and trails staff report the color changes they see in their area. They also write updated descriptions and tips for each park! The reports are compiled and updated on their Fall Color Map. Check it out below!

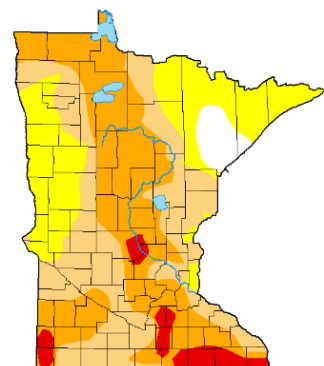
[MN DNR
Colorfinder](#)

Drought Conditions throughout Minnesota - Help conserve our Natural Resources

Believe it or not despite the latest rain, Minnesota is still under drought conditions. With drought expanding and a portion of the state now in extreme drought, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is carefully monitoring the situation and taking steps as outlined in the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan. The weekly U.S. Drought Monitor map released Thursday, Oct. 12 shows:

- 24% of Minnesota is experiencing abnormally

U.S. Drought Monitor
Minnesota



- dry conditions.
- 33% of the state is in moderate drought, decreased from 8% last week.
- 35% of Minnesota is in severe drought, decreased from 36% last week.
- 5% of the state is in extreme drought, decreased from 8% last week.

Areas currently experiencing extreme drought will require at least five to eight inches of rain over several weeks to replenish water resources, and areas experiencing severe drought will require at least three to five inches of rain over several weeks to replenish water resources.

Minnesotans are encouraged to learn how much water they are using. [Learn more about water conservation](#) and identify ways to reduce water use. Reducing use today saves water for the future.

[View DNR Drought Map](#)

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[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- 3rd Quarter Water / Sewer Bills - payment link
- Save 12.3.23 date for Santa's ride through North Oaks
- Link to League of Women voters forum with Mounds View School Board Candidates
- Holiday Home Tour - Registration update
- Reminder: Motorbikes / ATV's Not Permitted on North Oaks Trails
- Looking For Resident Photographs of North Oaks

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 10.20.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Planning Commission Meeting Next Thursday

The October Planning Commission meeting will take place next Thursday, October 26th at 7 p.m.

Some of the agenda topics include:

- Discussion on amending Chapter 150 of the North Oaks City code regarding garages and accessory structure sizes
- Discussion on amending Chapter 150 of the North Oaks City Code regarding building height, setbacks, and topography

The full agenda packet can be found on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting. Visit the calendar entry [HERE](#) for updates.



Holiday Home Tour Volunteers

The annual North Oaks Guild I Holiday Home Tour and Boutique benefiting Children's Hospitals of Minnesota is weeks away. There will be two beautifully decorated homes on the tour this year as well as our fabulous boutique at the North Oaks Golf Club.



Photo Credit: Julie Oliver Photography

The Guild is looking for volunteers to staff the homes on Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th. If you would like to donate some of your time for a very worthwhile cause, please visit the Sign-Up Genius link and sign up for a shift(s). Bring along a friend or family member too!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084DA5AF2DA64-44458940-2023#/>

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Motta at 651-788-0843 or Jennifer.motta@comcast.net

We hope you can join us for this festive event. It is a great way to kick off the holiday season while helping Children's Hospitals at the same time.



Holiday Home Tour - Purchase Tickets

The North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) is excited to announce that our annual Home Tour and Boutique will take place on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18. On Friday, the Tour runs from 9am to 3pm (last bus leaves the Club) and the Boutique until 4pm. On Saturday, the Tour runs from 9am to 2pm (last bus) and the Boutique is open until 3pm.

This event includes a home tour of two beautiful homes decorated by professional designers and florists from the metropolitan area, a boutique featuring local artisans, and an optional luncheon at North Oaks Golf Club.

The Holiday home tour is a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital Association, raising over 1,200,000 for this organization since 1963. Enjoy a festive afternoon touring homes by purchasing a ticket below or visiting the boutique (no ticket required).

The optional buffet lunch is available before or after your tour. Please note that reservations are

mandatory and are a separate cost from the Home Tour ticket. To make a lunch reservation, call the North Oaks Golf Club directly at 651-484-8585.

[More Info / Purchase Home Tour Tickets](#)

Halloween Activities / Events

Looking for Halloween activities this MEA weekend? Check out these events in the Twin Cities for Halloween fun! Sampling of fun options include:

- Pinehaven Farm Festival
- Tricks & Treats - Valley Fair
- Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular - MN Zoo
- Union Depot Ghost Tours - St. Paul
- Screaming Green Hauntoween - Crayola Mall of America
- Light the Night Parade - Anoka
- Dead End Hayride - Wyoming



[Twin Cities Halloween Events Guide](#)

SAFETY



Reflective Vests Available for Purchase

Ensure your safety when walking or biking our roads in the dark winter evening hours. The North Oaks Homeowners Association has a limited supply of reflective vests available for purchase. The price ranges from \$5-8 depending on style. Stop in the NOHOA office between 9 - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday or 9 - Noon on Friday's.

Thanks to everyone for doing their part to keep our community safe.

Halloween Costume Safety Tips

While out shopping for those Halloween costumes for the kids, keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Avoid long costumes that hit the ground, cover the feet and pose a tripping hazard.
- Ensure masks do not cover the eyes or restrict



- vision or breathing.
- Choose Bright Colors and add reflective stripes
- Be sure your child is wearing something reflective or glowing on them (The Dollar Store has glow necklaces if costume doesn't have any reflective material)
- All accessories (swords, staffs, props) should be of soft foam, no sharp edges and easy to carry

Here's to a safe holiday!

NATURAL RESOURCES



Beautiful North Oaks - Get outside!

Our local trails are exploding with fall color. Get outside this weekend! Take a camera with you on a trail walk. Residents can contact NOHOA's Rowcal help desk at 651-233-1307 to request a trail map.

Trails are owned and managed by NOHOA. Only North Oaks residents and their guests are allowed on the trails.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from City Council Meeting 10.12.23
- World Stroke Day 10.29.23
- Deputy Lassegard Monthly Security Report
- Street Safety Reminders
- Minnesota Fall Color and Drought Conditions updates

[City Calendar](#)

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750



HOURS

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Eblast for the Week of 10.27.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Planning Commission Highlights

Highlights from the 10.26.23 meeting include:

- Discussion on amending Chapter 150 of the North Oaks City code regarding garages and accessory structure sizes: Planning Commission recommended increasing the maximum size of garages from 1,500 square feet to 2,000 square feet.
- Discussion on amending Chapter 150 of the North Oaks City Code regarding building height, setbacks, and topography: Commissioners discussed options for clarifying the language of the ordinance that sets parameters for building heights when
- Planning Commissioners also discussed whether noise standards should be set for leaf blowers, mowers, etc. Commissioners agreed



they are within 50 feet of a lot line, as well clarifying language in the ordinance that requires homes to be built in a manner that is "naturally suited" to the topography of the land. No recommendations were made; discussion to continue at the November Planning Commission Meeting.

setting time limits on the use of equipment with loud noise would be reasonable (for example: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Commissioners will review other cities' ordinances and discussion will continue at the November meeting.

[View the 10.26.23 Planning Commission Meeting](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Give to the Max Day - Hill Farm Historical Society

A Good Day to Give to the Hill Farm Historical Society Thursday, November 16 is Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. Please remember to include the Hill Farm Historical Society in your charitable giving plans. All of your gifts support our mission to restore and maintain the Hill Farm site and to educate residents about the rich agricultural history of our town.

All gifts are tax deductible. For more information visit givemn.org. --Hill Farm Historical Society.



[More Information: Give to the Max - Historical Society](#)



General Election / NOHOA Board Election

The upcoming general election on November 7th, 2023 taking place for Precinct 1 and 2 includes ONLY voting for Mounds View School Board candidates. There are 11 candidates running for 4 open board positions. A new candidate forum which took place on 10.16.23 can be found [HERE](#). Official voting is conducted through the Ramsey County Board of Elections. [View what's on my ballot.](#)

Voting materials for the private North Oaks Homeowners Association (NOHOA) Board of Directors will be sent to Residents within the next 2 weeks. Residents will have



the option to vote online or via paper ballot. There are 5 candidates running for 3 open board positions. Look for information to be sent directly from NOHOA.

Check the October / November issues of the North Oaks and Shoreview Press newspapers for information on candidates.

Rice Creek Commons -Community Open House

For those traveling west on Highway 96, you may have noticed increased activity near the Highway 96 / Highway 10 /35W North area. After 10 years of planning and recent land remediation, the Rice Creek Commons project (formerly known as TCAAP) is getting underway. This will include a variety of development including commercial buildings, single family homes, townhomes, condominiums and recreation space along Rice Creek.



Mark your calendars if you want to learn more about the Rice Creek Commons redevelopment site. Ramsey County community members are invited to attend an open house:

When: November 1, 6-8 p.m., Doors open 5:45 p.m.

Where: Ramsey County Public Works Facility, **1425**

Paul Kirkwold Dr, Arden Hills, MN 55112

Presentations: 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

[View More Info: Rice Creek Commons](#)

SAFETY

Halloween Safety Tips

Trick-or-Treating is around the corner! Remember these safety tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for a safe Halloween night.

Safety Tips for Drivers:

- Be alert for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Slow down and continue to scan the road in areas where they are likely to be or where sight



distances are limited.

- On Halloween there will likely be more pedestrians on the roads and in places where they are not expected. Slower speeds save lives.
- Stay alert for pedestrians who may come out from between parked cars or behind shrubbery. Stop, wait for them to pass.
- Don't look at your phone when you're driving. Your attention needs to always be on the road.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact law enforcement.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians:

- Walk on a sidewalk if one is available and use crosswalks.
- Before the Halloween festivities begin, create a "buddy system" to get each other home safely and prevent walking alone.

Tips for Party Hosts:

Be a responsible party host and take action to make sure guests get home safely.

- Serve plenty of food and provide non-alcoholic beverage options.
- Collect car keys from guests who are drinking.
- Prepare to call taxis, rideshares, provide sleeping accommodations, or—if you're sober—drive guests home yourself.

Source: NHTSA Halloween Safety Tips

Source: NHTSA Halloween Safety Tips

NATURAL RESOURCES



Pumpkin and Fall Decor Composting

After the trick-or-treaters have come and gone, put your pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks to good use by bringing them to a Ramsey County Yard Waste site for composting. Drop off is free for Ramsey County Residents.

[Pumpkin Disposal at Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites](#)

Wilkinson - Deep Lake Water Wetland Project Update

Quick Facts:

- Wilkinson Lake is impaired for nutrients.
- Wilkinson Lake receives water from land in 5 cities (North Oaks, White Bear Township, White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, and Lino Lakes), 5 upstream lakes (Birch, Tamarack, Black, Amelia,



and intermittently Gilfillan), and a total of 3,115 acres.

- Wilkinson Lake is a strategic location where several waterways come together. Water flows from Wilkinson into Deep and Pleasant Lakes.
- The project will be located on land owned by North Oaks Farms (DBA North Oaks Company) and is also part of a Minnesota Land Trust Conservation Easement.
- This project is the first in an anticipated series of projects that will work together to improve water quality and reduce nutrients to improve this impaired waterbody.
- This work will direct water around natural wetlands, small islands, and dividers for filtration purposes.

View the lower section of the VLAWMO Project page below for photos and drone footage of the progress to date.

[Wilkinson - Deep Lake Wetland Project Page w/Photos & Video](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** - Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Holiday Home Tour Volunteer sign up link
- Holiday [Home Tour Purchase ticket link](#)
- Links to Halloween theme activities
- Halloween Costume Safety Tips
- Reflective Vests available for purchase from NOHOA

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

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Eblast for the Week of 11.03.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS



Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th - Remember to VOTE!

The upcoming general election takes place
Tuesday, November 7th, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. -8:00
p.m.:

- Precinct 1 votes at City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150
- Precinct 2 votes at North Oaks Golf Club, 54 East Oaks Road

The ballot includes voting for Mounds View School Board candidates. There are 11 candidates running for 4 open board positions. This is the only item on the ballot.

Information on candidates can be found:

- NineNorth [Candidate Speak Outs](#) - 9.22.2023
- League of Women Voters [Candidate Forum](#) - 10.2.2023
- Shoreview/Arden Hills/Mounds [View Lions Club hosted candidate forum](#) - 10.16.23

Official voting is conducted through the Ramsey County Board of Elections. [View what's on my ballot.](#)

Early Voting

Unable to vote on Election Day? North Oaks residents can vote at the Ramsey County Library Roseville - 2180 Hamline Avenue, Roseville:

- Friday, November 3rd - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, November 4th - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Monday, November 6th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lake Gilfillan Aeration Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of North Oaks has applied for an aeration permit for Gilfillan Lake to prevent winterkill.



The aerator is located on the NW side of the lake at 8 Poplar Lane, North Oaks, MN, 55127 – Section 17, T30N, R22 W, Ramsey County. The aerator helps add oxygen to the water in Gilfillan Lake. When lakes freeze over in the winter and become iced over, no new oxygen can make its way into the water. When it snows on the ice no sunlight can reach the underwater plants, and they cannot make oxygen. When oxygen levels get too low, fish can suffocate, causing a winterkill.

Aeration on Gilfillan Lake will cause thin ice and/or open water. Pay attention to warning signs and use extreme caution on Gilfillan Lake this winter.

[Notice of Lake Gilfillan Aeration](#)



City Council Meeting 11.9.2023

The next meeting of the City Council will take place next Thursday, November 9th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the North Oaks Community Room. Residents are welcome to attend in person, watch via Cable channel 16 or on computer via zoom platform.

The agenda includes:

- Review of 2024 Budget
- Security Update

- Update on CLCA water project
- Discussion on Solar Ordinance
- Discussion on deer management

[View meeting links and full agenda](#)

Planning Commission Openings

Interested in City development? The City of North Oaks Planning Commission has 2 openings beginning January 1, 2024.

There is 1 year left on one Commissioner term, and 1 three-year term. The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the City Council and is responsible for reviewing the City's Comprehensive Plan, conditional use permits (CUP), and variances and development related submissions. After review of items brought forth, the commission makes recommendations to the City Council.

The North Oaks Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month.



Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission should review the [Board and Commission appointment policy](#) and submit the [Application form](#) to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

The deadline for applications is **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st** at 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to "Fall Back" by setting your clocks back by one hour on that date.

[History of Daylight Saving Time in the United States](#)



Ramsey County Holiday Sponsorship Program

Looking for a new way to make a difference this holiday season? Make the holidays a bit brighter for an individual or family in need throughout Ramsey County by providing small gifts

and a holiday meal.

Learn how families, individuals, groups and work teams can become sponsors:

Ramsey County Holiday Sponsorship Program



**ADOPT SOMEONE
IN NEED.**

Holiday Sponsorship Program
Matching community sponsors with individuals and families receiving Ramsey County social services who need extra help during the holidays.

 RAMSEY COUNTY

SAFETY

Ramsey County Block Captain Newsletter

The November edition of the Ramsey County Sherriff's department Block captain newsletter includes topics such as:

- Parking Ordinances - no overnight street parking in North Oaks
- Coffee with a Cop - next event 7:30 -9:00 a.m. Wed. 11/15 at Kowalski's
- Holiday Safety Tips - tips for preventing 4 most frequent types of theft
- Prevent Slider Crime - slipping into unlocked car doors while distracted
- Tip of the Month - Improve door safety



[View the full Newsletter](#)

Coyote Awareness

The leaves drop and colder weather sets in, Coyote in our community may become more visible. We currently have reports of coyote sighting on Eagle Ridge and Raven Road areas.

For the safety of your pets, please keep pets leashed when on trails to ensure they are within your sight. If a coyote is encountered, DNR and Ramsey County Sherriff's office urges hazing techniques to make their presence unwelcome. Hazing techniques include: making loud noise by yelling / banging objects together, xxxx.

View more information / tips on safely co-existing with Coyote [HERE](#). You can also view the full presentation by DNR / Ramsey County Sherriff's Office on this topic below.

View DNR Coyote Presentation



NATURAL RESOURCES

Leaf Blowing Season / Noise

Tis the season for disposing of all those leaves that our beautiful North Oaks trees are dropping. As a key reminder, blowing leaves into wetlands, your neighbor's property, or public spaces is prohibited.

During these next few weeks, we also ask residents to have patience with the extra noise as contractors and homeowners use leaf blowers to assist in yard clean up. Please to keep blowing during daytime hours if possible, in consideration of your neighbors.

Before we know it, we will all be into the peace of winter snow - along with the reappearance of snowplow season!



REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** - Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, November 30th at 7:00

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from the 10.26.23 Planning Commission Meeting
- [Give to the Max Day for the Hill](#)

p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

[Farm Historical Society](#)

- General Election and NOHOA Board Election Information
- Rice Creek Commons Community Open House
- Halloween Safety Tips and Pumpkin Composting Information
- Wilkinson/Deep Lake Water Wetland Project Update

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 11.10.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Veteran's Day - Office Closed

The North Oaks City Hall Office will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday on Saturday, November 11th. Thank you to the veterans in our community for their service and sacrifices!



Mounds View School Board Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected School Board members for Mounds View School District 621. Alissa Daire Nelson, Heidi Danielson, Jonathan Weinhagen and Jim Demay were all elected to serve four-year terms on the school board.

For full election results, visit: [Minnesota Secretary Of](#)



Highlights from the City Council Meeting 11.9.2023

- Deputy Lassegard gave his monthly security report. See full report in the Safety and Security Section below. Of note were two drunk driving arrests in October, both of which resulted after vehicle accidents, as well as some new fraud schemes targeting seniors. Deputy Lassegard also noted that he has been encouraging newer deputies to patrol in the city to get familiar with the area. Councilor Shuman asked if Deputy Lassegard would create a report at a future meeting that compares crime per capita in the City of North Oaks against surrounding cities.
- Councilor Watson gave a report on the Ramsey County Sheriff Office contract. RCSO is requesting an 11% increase in funding for the 2024 budget. He suggested that the City negotiate with RCSO to reduce cost on several areas. Council decided to move forward with the 2024 budget increase for RCSO, but look more closely at the issue for coming years in future work sessions.
- City Administrator Kress noted that he would like to cancel the TimeSavers Secretarial contract for recording minutes at City Council meetings. Minute taking will revert back to City Staff. Council agreed. He will continue to look for other areas to cut costs.
- Mayor Wolter presented a petition that she received from 63 residents with concerns about cameras and gates as security initiatives being considered by the Council, and requesting transparent discussion on the topic. Councilor Shuman shared that a task force has been created to look at several items, and they are taking privacy concerns voiced by residents seriously. They are exploring expanding the Neighborhood Watch program, adopting an Emergency Notification System, as well as License Plate Recognition Cameras at a number of entrances. He will make sure that future task force meeting dates will be published for the public attendance.
- City Administrator Kress has received a proposal from the USDA for deer management. The upper end of the proposal was \$56,700 for 40 scouting and bait stations

and up to 20 visits from personnel. The USDA is currently the only licensed organization that can conduct deer management in the state. Council approved a motion to move forward with a scaled back version of the proposal that includes 10 days of deer management service (approximately \$29,000) with a report for each day of service. After the 10 days of service, council will evaluate the program and determine if it makes sense to extend the program. Council also approved a motion to have the County do an aerial count of deer to get a better sense of the population in the city to inform future deer management efforts.

[View the 11.9.23 City Council Meeting](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Boughs and Bows

Sunday, November 12, 12:30 p.m.
Blacksmith Shop at the Hill Farm
25 Hill Farm Circle

It's that time! Get into the holiday spirit and join the North Oaks Garden Club at the Hill Farm on Sunday, November 12 to help assemble the 280+ swags that will be hung on the street sign posts throughout North Oaks for the holidays. Treats and warm beverages will be provided, along with festive cheer and the aroma of fresh evergreens! This is a wonderful family event. Please dress for the weather and don't forget to bring your gloves.



Holiday Home Tour Tickets Now Available!

The North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) will host their annual Home Tour and Boutique on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18. This event includes a home tour of two beautiful homes decorated by professional designers and florists from the metropolitan area, a boutique featuring local artisans, and an optional luncheon at North Oaks Golf Club. Purchase tickets for the 2023 Holiday Home Tour at the link below.

Buses leave from the North Oaks Golf Club on Friday, November 17 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 18th between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The optional lunch is a separate fee. Contact the North Oaks Golf club at directly 651-484-8585 to make reservations for lunch.



[Purchase Holiday Home Tour Tickets Here](#)

Give to the Max Day - Thursday, November 16

Consider supporting the Hill Farm Historical Society on Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. All of your donations support their mission to restore and maintain the Hill Farm site and to educate residents about the rich agricultural history of North Oaks. All gifts are tax deductible. For more information visit the link below:



[Give to the Max Day - Hill Farm Historical Society](#)

For more information on this day of giving and what other organizations you can support, visit: [Give to the Max Day 2023 \(givemn.org\)](https://givemn.org)

Save the Date! Santa is Coming to Town / NOHOA Winterfest Event

Mark your calendars to stop out and celebrate the warmth of the season in our kind and caring Community!

From 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3rd, Santa will be coming to town on top of a Lake Johanna firetruck to spread holiday cheer and wave to all our young (and young at heart) residents. Coordinated by the City of North Oaks and North Oaks Homeowners Association, this festive annual

tradition is also a great opportunity to kick off the season and donate to Lake Johanna Fire Department's Toys for Tots collection drive. Santa's route and estimated time of arrival will be published by NOHOA. If he will not be traveling down your street, come to a route location or just bring your family to the West Recreation center at 5:00 p.m. to greet the Firetruck as Santa completes his route.

Then from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. the NOHOA Winterfest event at the West Recreation center takes place! North Oaks Residents are invited to bundle up and stop out for an old-fashioned Winter Celebration. Family friendly activities include:

- horse drawn trolley ride
- visit & take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- visit / pet cute Llamas
- face painter and balloon artist
- enjoy festive holiday music by Victorian era Carolers
- make s'mores at the firepit
- enjoy a cookie and warm beverage
- write letters to Santa
- make a homemade ornament /craft, join the scavenger hunt / coloring contest
- OR just simply warm up around the firepit visiting with neighbors

The Countdown to the lighting of the North Oaks holiday tree will take place at **6:00 p.m.** We hope you can join us!



SAFETY

Deputy Matt - Monthly Security Report

179 CALLS FOR SERVICE

- NOTABLE
 - 2 drunk driving arrests
 - Theft; Movers allegedly stole money and jewelry
 - Suspicious
 - 4 trespassers, 1 cited, 3 warned
 - Suspected attempted mail theft Thompson Lane
 - People with flashlights in back yard of Lost Rock Lane
 - Several open garage doors at night
 - 22 Traffic Stops



SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Fraud
 - Safeguard passwords
 - New fraud. Targeting seniors during open enrollment
- DO NOT send cash money via mail / Bitcoin / gift cards
- Government will not call for money
- When in doubt contact bank, family, and or LE
- Housing Watch information. Inform neighbors of absence, remove snow from driveways
- DO NOT CALL DEPUTY MATT FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUES

OTHER

- Next Block Captain informational meeting 6:30 p.m. JANUARY 16th, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive in Arden Hills
- Look for North Oaks News Deputy Matt's corner. Online fraud security and police history
- Winter speed enforcement

NATURAL RESOURCES

Watershed Scenery and Wildlife photography

VLAWMO is interested in your sight seeing! Photos of early morning, evening, sunrises, and sunsets are especially of interest. Frosty trees and photos during rain events (i.e. stormwater runoff at a raingarden) are also very valuable. Past or present landscape or wildlife images help tell the story of the watershed and inspire action and care for our water resources. All photos are credited according to submitter preference (word caption, name stamp, etc.).



[Refer here](#) for more information on how to submit images and other volunteers needs.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- Planning Commission – Thursday, November 30th at 7:00

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Election Day Reminders

p.m.

- City Council - Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

- Lake Gilfillan Aeration Notice
- City Council Meeting Topics - 11.9.23
- Planning Commission Openings
- Daylight Saving Time Reminder
- Ramsey County Holiday Sponsorship Program
- Ramsey County Block Captain Newsletter
- Coyote Awareness
- Leaf Blowing Season Reminders

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 11.17.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Thanksgiving Office Closure

The North Oaks City Hall Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Happy Thanksgiving, North Oaks!



Recycling Changes for the Week of November 20th

For those residents with Recycling pickup on Thursday and Friday: There WILL be a recycling schedule change in observance of Thanksgiving. Recycling pick-up will be moved one day later than usual. Those with recycling pickup Monday-

Mayor for a Day Essay Contest

The League of Minnesota Cities is once again encouraging our state's 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to share ideas about how they would make cities better through submitting essays in the League's "Mayor for a Day" essay contest. **Last year, the LMC received 560 essays, the most in the contest's 11-year history.**

To enter, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders simply answer the prompt, "What would you do if you were Mayor for a day?". At least three winning students will be chosen from among submitted entries. Each winning student will receive \$100 and will have their essay published in a future issue of *Minnesota Cities* magazine.



The deadline for submissions is Dec. 12. Students and parents/guardians can submit essays via an online form, a PDF email attachment, or through the mail. Winners only will be notified in early January. The City of North Oaks would love to recognize our student writers. Let's get some entries in the running!

Full Contest information and links to submit essays can be found at [LMC Mayor for a Day](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Home Tour - Happening Now!

The North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) is hosting their annual Home Tour and Boutique on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18. This event includes a home tour of two beautiful homes decorated by professional designers and florists from the metropolitan area. *Tickets can be purchased for \$50 at the event.*

Buses leave from the North Oaks Golf Club on Friday, November 17th between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 18th between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The optional lunch is a separate fee. Contact the North Oaks Golf club at directly 651-484-8585 to make reservations for lunch.



****Can't make the tour but still want to shop and support the cause? Stop by the FREE boutique featuring local artisans taking place**

Save the Date! Santa is Coming to Town / NOHOA Winterfest Event

Mark your calendars to stop out and celebrate the warmth of the season in our kind and caring Community!

From 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3rd, Santa will be coming to town on top of a Lake Johanna firetruck to spread holiday cheer and wave to all our young (and young at heart) residents. Coordinated by the City of North Oaks and North Oaks Homeowners Association, this festive annual tradition is also a great opportunity to kick off the season and donate to Lake Johanna Fire Department's Toys for Tots collection drive.

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Then from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. the NOHOA Winterfest event at the West Recreation center takes place! North Oaks Residents are invited to bundle up and stop out for an old-fashioned Winter Celebration.



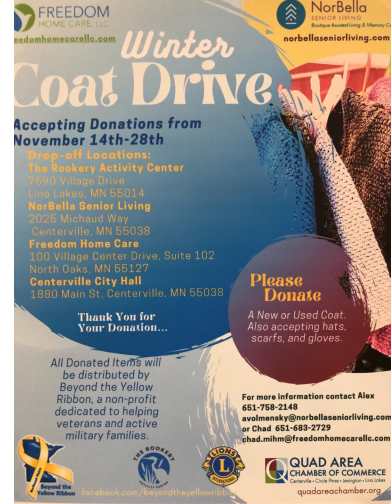
Family friendly activities include:

- horse drawn trolley ride
- visit & take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- visit with Llamas
- face painter and balloon artist
- enjoy festive holiday music by Victorian era Carolers
- enjoy a cookie and warm beverage
- write letters to Santa
- make a homemade ornament /craft, join the scavenger hunt / coloring contest
- OR just simply warm up making smore's around the firepit visiting with neighbors
-

The Countdown to the lighting of the North Oaks holiday tree will take place at 6:00 p.m. We hope you can join us!

Winter Coat Donation Drive - Nov. 14th - 28th

If you have excess coats, hats, scarves, and gloves as you prepare for the Winter season, consider dropping them off in the marked winter coat donation drive box in the lobby of the City Hall building. The lobby is open between 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Friday.



Winter Coat Drive
 Accepting Donations from November 14th-28th

Drop-off Locations:
The Hookery Activity Center
 7690 Village Drive
 Minneapolis, MN 55014
NorBella Senior Living
 2025 Michaud Way
 Centerville, MN 55038
Freedom Home Care
 1100 Village Center Drive, Suite 102
 North Oaks, MN 55127
Centerville City Hall
 1880 Main St. Centerville, MN 55038

Thank You for Your Donation...

All Donated Items will be distributed by Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, a non-profit dedicated to helping veterans and active military families.

Please Donate
 A New or Used Coat. Also accepting hats, scarfs, and gloves.

For more information contact Alex
 651-758-2148
 avolensky@norbellaseniorliving.com
 or Chad 651-689-2729
 chad.mihm@freedomhomecarellc.com

Logos: Freedom Home Care, NorBella Senior Living & Memory Care, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lions Club, Quad Area Chamber of Commerce



James J. Hill House Holiday Tours

For those history buffs, Holidays on the Hill tours are set take place at the James J. Hill house in St. Paul from November 17th – December 31st. Experience Christmas in 1910—both upstairs and downstairs—in the sumptuous Gilded Age mansion of railroad titan James J. Hill.

Admission includes self-guided access to holiday-themed exhibits and a 60- minute guided tour highlighting holiday stories and memories from both the Hill family and their staff.

[Purchase Tickets - Holidays on the Hill](#)

Toys for Tots Donation Drop Off - Lake Johanna Fire Department

It's that time of year again. If you would like to help Lake Johanna Fire Department fill their trailer again for Toys For Tots Twin Cities, you can drop toys off at any of these three stations:

- 4676 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks
- 5545 Lexington Ave, Shoreview
- 3615 Victoria St. Shoreview



TOYS FOR TOTS
 Now Accepting Unwrapped Toys for boys and girls ages infant to 16 years old.

DROP OFF GIFTS AT LAKE JOHANNA FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION LOCATIONS

4676 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks
 5545 Lexington Ave, Shoreview
 3615 Victoria St, Shoreview

SAFETY

Package Theft Prevention

As residents travel for holidays, remember to safeguard



deliveries to your home. Tips for package theft prevention:

- Ask a trustworthy neighbor to watch for and retrieve your package when it is delivered.
- Request “signature required” service from the delivery company.
- Place a storage container, such as a large Rubbermaid, on your stoop for packages to be placed in so they are not readily seen by people driving by.
- Place a note on front door asking delivery driver to leave packages on the back steps.
- Have packages delivered to your work or a business address if possible.
- Deposit outgoing mail in official USPS drop boxes.

If a package has been inadvertently left on your doorstep, be a good neighbor and drop it off at the intended home or return it to the delivery carrier.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Free Park Day - Friday, November 24th

On Friday, November 24th, all 75 Minnesota State Parks and state recreation areas offer free admission to everyone - no vehicle permits needed! This is a great opportunity to get out there and explore someplace new - or visit an old favorite at a new time of year.

[Refer here](#) for more information on the upcoming free park day, as well as several others that are offered throughout the year.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No

problem! The topics were:

- **Planning Commission** –
Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday,
December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

- Mounds View School Board Election Results
- Highlights from the November City Council Meeting
- Boughs and Bows
- Give to the Max Day
- Holiday Home Tour Information
- Santa Visit/NOHOA Winterfest event - 12.3.23
- Security Report from Deputy Lassegard
- VLAWMO Scenery and Wildlife Photography

[City Calendar](#)

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



100 Village Center Drive, #230
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Phone: (651) 792-7750



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Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4 PM

Fri: 9AM to 12PM

[Email Us](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 12.1.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Highlights from the 11.30.23 Special City Council Meeting

- Legal Services with Levander, Gillen, and Miller, PA were terminated. Approved Resolution 1501 to amend the 2023 Appointments/ City responsibilities to reflect Kennedy and Graven as City Attorney. City Attorney Bridget Nason has switched firms to Kennedy and Graven and will remain our primary City Attorney with Jim Thomson as backup.
- Approved Resolution 1502 to authorize renewal of 2024 Liquor Licenses for Tria Restaurant, Wine Street Spirits, Panino's, Suishin, North Oaks Golf Club, Taste of Scandinavia, as well as Tobacco licenses for Walgreens, North Oaks Golf Club, Wine Street



Spirits.

- Minutes will be posted to City website.
-

Highlights from 11.30.23 Planning Commission Meeting



- Discussion of Variance request 23-7 from Charles Cudd to install a 1,000-foot solid fence along Centerville Road to provide privacy and noise buffer for the new Spring Farm Preserve townhome development. Commission heard from residents, discussed details of the application and alternative natural barriers. Applicant to meet with City Forester, North Oaks Company, Homeowners Association and City to discuss further potential resolutions. A 60-day extension letter will be sent to applicant, and discussion will continue at the next January 25, 2024 meeting.
- Commissioners discussed revisions to the language for garage size limits, to allow garages up of 2,000 square feet as long as it meets F.A.R and other requirements/regulations. Garages in excess of 2,000 up to 3,000 sq. feet would require a Conditional Use permit. A public hearing will be scheduled for the January 25, 2024 meeting to gain public input, and make recommendation to City Council.
- Commissioners discussed potential amendment to clarify setback requirements for new home applications in excess of 35 feet, up to 45 feet as allowed through the CUP process. City staff will tweak language and draft exhibits to be part of CUP application. A public hearing will be scheduled for the January 25, 2024 meeting to gain public input, and make recommendation to City Council.
- Commissioners discussed CUP requirements for Ordinance regulating home height. Considerations were made related to topography and what is considered a natural condition for a walkout/lookout home to determine if individual properties meet "suitable site" criteria. It was generally agreed that 6 foot difference in the natural (unaltered) grade between the front and back of home could be reasonable metric for a walkout. A public hearing will be scheduled for the January 25, 2024 meeting to gain public input, and make recommendation to City Council.

[Watch Full 11.30.23 Planning Commission Meeting](#)



Holiday Lights not working? Recycle!

Do you have holiday lights that are no longer working and need to be disposed of? LED holiday lights cannot go in the trash because they contain printed circuit boards and are considered hazardous.

There will be a drop box located at the City of North Oaks for any holiday lights you are looking to safely dispose of. Drop them by the office during City Hall office hours 9:00 am -4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, or 9 – Noon on Friday's. The City will dispose of them with Recycling Technologies.

A guide on how to dispose of other holiday items such as greenery, greeting cards, wrapping paper is [HERE](#).

For an easy to search guide on how to recycle other items, visit Ramsey County recycling website: [A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide | Ramsey County](#).

Santa is Coming to Town - Sunday!

From 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 3rd, watch for Santa coming to town on top of a Lake Johanna firetruck to spread holiday cheer and wave to all our young (and young at heart) residents. This festive annual tradition is also a great opportunity to kick off the season.



Santa's route and estimated time of arrival has been published by the North Oaks Homeowners Association and posted on the North Oaks Resident Facebook page. If he will not be traveling down your street, come to a route location or just bring your family to the West Recreation center at 5:00 p.m. to greet the Firetruck as they complete the route.

Lake Johanna Fire Department is also collecting for the Toys for Tots collection drive. **You can drop off toys in the collection bin outside West Rec. from 12/2 – 12/10 or give them to the Fire truck as they go by.**

** Note: all route times are approximate **

NOHOA Winterfest Event - Sunday

On Sunday, December 3rd from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. the NOHOA Winterfest event at the West Recreation center takes place! **North Oaks Residents** are invited to bundle up and stop by for an old-fashioned Winter Celebration.

Family friendly activities include:

- horse drawn trolley ride
- visit & take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- visit with Llamas
- face painter and balloon artist
- enjoy festive holiday music by Victorian era Carolers
- enjoy a cookie and beverage
- write letters to Santa
- make a homemade ornament /craft, join the scavenger hunt / coloring contest
- OR just simply warm up making smore's around the firepit visiting with neighbors



The Countdown to the lighting of the North Oaks holiday tree will take place at **6:00 p.m.** We hope you can join us!

Submittal from North Oaks Homeowners Association:

NOHOA Reminder to Vote/Annual Meeting Thursday Dec 7th @ 6:30pm

Dear NOHOA Members,

It has been brought to NOHOA's attention that some members have not yet received their Annual Meeting mailing including the paper ballot. We have spoken to the vendor (YesElections) to confirm that the mailing was successfully mailed out from New York on November 7th. Unfortunately, some Members experienced long delays, up to 18 days, in receiving the ballot!



What's on the NOHOA Ballot?

Board of Directors:

There are three open positions for the Board of Directors. Please vote for up to three candidates.

Approval of Roads First Budget:

Unanimously recommended by the NOHOA Board of Directors. We are

If you have not yet received your ballot, you can receive the mailing and ballot electronically via email by following the below instructions.

1. Email YesElections at Help+NOHOA@YesElections.com

2. In the Subject line of the email add: North Oaks Home Owners' Association Annual Meeting – Electronic Mailing and Ballot Request

3. In the body of the email: Request the electronic mailing and ballot and include your name and address and please ask them to send electronically.

We have been informed that you should receive an answer back from YesElections within 1 business day.

How can I vote?

There are a few ways to vote this year...

ELECTRONICALLY online (instructions on the ballot)
Must be submitted online by December 6th at 3pm.

DROP OFF ballot at the NOHOA Office
Ballot must be received in the office by December 5th at 4pm.

VOTE AT THE NOHOA OFFICE
Paper ballots available – Stop by during business hours, complete and set in sealed envelope – **Must be completed by December 5th at 4pm.**

SAFETY

Thin Ice Awareness

As the weather is turning colder, please be mindful of thin ice conditions and stay safe around ponds and lakes. The lakes and channels of North Oaks often have running water underneath from the Mississippi River or aerators that make them particularly vulnerable to unforeseen dangers.

asking residents to Vote YES to support our great community now & in the future!

Remember to vote YES for our dues as NOHOA is responsible for:

- Road Improvements and Maintenance
- Maintaining NOHOA Grounds, Buildings and Trails
- Recreational Programs and Community Events
- Maintaining Privacy throughout our North Oaks Community
- Enforcing/Maintaining Covenants and Warranty Deeds

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

NOHOA Board of Directors

****Please vote! Every vote counts! According to our bylaws, Members' votes are weighted (1) for each property and (2) for each property + home.**

Vote YES for North Oaks!

Parents and guardians should talk with their children and neighborhood children about staying away from the ice unless there's adult supervision. This includes lakes and rivers, as well as neighborhood ponds, retention ponds and anywhere ice forms.

Ice seldom freezes uniform, especially early in the season. Wait for at least 4 inches of clear, solid ice to form before walking on it. Check thickness before you head out, and as you go with an ice chisel. In addition, tell someone else where you're going, carry along ice picks and a rope, and wear a life jacket or buoyant gear. If you fall through the ice into cold water, a life jacket will keep your head above the surface and give you time to assess the situation and get yourself out of trouble.

Check out the Minnesota DNR for more tips on Ice Safety:[Ice safety | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)



NATURAL RESOURCES

Smart Salting with VLAWMO

It's snow and ice season in Minnesota, which means it is a good time to re-visit smart salting tips from the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization. Follow their guidelines to prevent salt pollution and to keep our watershed in good health.

[VLAWMO Smart Salting Guide](#)



REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** - Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- **Planning Commission - Thursday,**
January 25th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

- Mayor for a Day Essay Contest
- NOHOA Winterfest
- James J. Hill House Holiday Tours
- Toys for Tots Donation Drop-Off at Lake Johanna Fires Stations
- Package Theft Prevention

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 12.8.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

*****Reminder: For full view of the City newsletter - right click to download pictures*****

Age-Friendly North Oaks - Residents Invited to Provide Feedback

The City of North Oaks has been awarded an Age-Friendly Minnesota (AFMN) Grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The grant is for a community visioning project to create an Age-Friendly Community Vision and Strategic Action Plan for the City.



The first step in this process is a survey to gather information from residents. The results from this survey will be used to create a vision statement and age-friendly principles to be used to create the final plan.

There are two opportunities to participate:

1. Complete the online survey by **December 22nd**. Visit:

[Age-Friendly North Oaks Survey](#)

2. Attend our open house on December 20th at the North Oaks Golf Ball Room. This is an opportunity to learn more about the age-friendly grant process, ask questions and provide additional feedback. There will be an opportunity to complete the survey at the open house.

Please RSVP here: [Age-Friendly North Oaks Open House RSVP](#) by **December 15th** for one of the two open house time slots below (the same information will be presented at each time slot). There will be light refreshments and a cash bar.

- 4:00-5:00PM (*presentation at 4:15PM*)
- 5:00-6:00PM (*presentation at 5:15PM*)

Special thank you to the following sponsors who donated to the open house event:

- Title Sponsor: Waverly Gardens
- Gold Sponsor: North Oaks Company
- Silver Sponsors: Snowbird and Northern Stars
- In Kind Sponsors: Suite Living and North Oaks Golf Club

The information above on this event can also be found on the [home page of the City website](#).



City Council Meeting Thursday 12.14.23

The final City Council meeting of the year will take place next Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. This will include the annual truth-in-taxation hearing. For participation details and agenda, [select the meeting on the City Calendar](#). The final packet will be published 72 hours prior to the meeting.



Santa Visits North Oaks

Thanks to the Lake Johanna Fire Department (and their families riding along), Deputy Lassegard and Allina Health for participating in the Santa parade through the Community. Residents appreciated the holiday lights and good cheer throughout the Community.

* Toys-4-Tots donations can still be dropped off at any Lake Johanna Fire Station including:

3615 Victoria St, Shoreview
4676 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks
5545 Lexington Ave N, Shoreview

COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter Household Hazardous Waste Hours

Winter hours have started at the year-round household hazardous waste collection site at Bay West. See updated hours at the link below:

[Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste](#)



NOHOA Winterfest Kicked off the Holiday Season

On Sunday, December 3rd from 5 - 7 p.m. community members enjoyed a picture-perfect Winterfest event at West Rec. Highlights of the event include; Tree lighting, Horse drawn trolley rides, Meet & Greet with Santa, Carolers, 5 festive Holiday Llamas, Smores, crafts, and refreshments.



Thanks to NOHOA for putting on a lovely family friendly event! The holiday tree on the North side of the West Recreation center will remain lit for the duration of the season.



Holiday Light Displays

Looking for Festive Holiday Light displays? To find the biggest and brightest local displays throughout the greater Twin Cities area, this helpful website has links to the larger shows, as well as an interactive holiday map (towards the bottom of their home page) showing holiday lights noted by “number of lights”, location and address.



[2023 Minnesota Holiday Lights Guide](#)

SAFETY



Christmas Tree Safety

In the midst of holiday traditions, don't forget to practice essential safety tips for a safe and festive holiday:

- Keep inside trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources and water regularly
 - Double-check lights and cords for frayed wires and missing bulbs
 - Use heavy-duty extension cords
 - Turn off holiday lights when leaving the house or going to bed.
-

NATURAL RESOURCES

Winter Yard Waste Hours

Yard waste sites have shifted to winter hours. Branches, leaves and other yard waste can be dropped off on Saturdays and Sundays only. Find a list of accepted items at:

[Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites](#)



MN DNR Eagle Cam

The Minnesota DNR has turned on their EagleCam for the season! Although the nest was lost during a storm last year, the camera remains on and is capturing eagle activity. Tune in to see if the eagle pair will rebuild their nest for future eaglets!

[Minnesota DNR EagleCam](#)



REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** - Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** - Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

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[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Highlights from the Thursday, November 30th Special City Council and Planning Commission Meetings
- Holiday Lights Recycling
- North Oaks Santa Visit and Winterfest
- NOHOA Election Reminders
- Thin Ice Safety
- Smart Salting with VLAWMO

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 12.15.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

*****Reminder: For full view of the City newsletter - right click to download pictures*****



City Hall Holiday Schedule

The North Oaks City Hall Office will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holidays. City Staff may be processing requests remotely Wednesday-Friday December 27th - 29th. The office will be closed again for New Year's Day on Monday, January 1st, and will re-open for regular business hours on Tuesday, January 2nd.

During the holiday period, please email requests to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov for most efficient assistance.

Highlights from the City Council Meeting - Thursday 12.14.23



- Conducted Truth in Taxation hearing. Resolution 1503 approved for 2024 City tax levy of \$2,476,679. At 11.83%, North Oaks retains the lowest tax rate of neighboring communities. The County and School district tax portion went up significantly. If you qualify and your taxes have gone up over 12%, you can apply to Ramsey County for a tax program rebate. If you feel your property has been assessed higher than the home value, refer to the back of your tax statement for how to file a petition.
- Deputy Lassegard summarized the Sherriff's activity for the month of November. Key issues include construction equipment thefts, porch theft of holiday deliveries. Refer to the full report below. He will present a 2023 year-end recap at the next January 11, 2024 Council meeting.
- Representatives from Charley Lake Condo Association came to thank Council for efforts in getting their 20 townhomes connected to Shoreview City water. They expressed concern over the unanticipated high cost of engineering services on this project. They will return at future meeting once all bills come in to discuss costs of this shared resource which could provide water service to more homes in the future. Motion passed to pay Minger construction for their services to date on the installation of the system.
- There was discussion on Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) Leave Policy and Personnel Policy. To meet new State ESST requirement by the January 2024 date, the City staff PTO schedule has been modified comparable to other Cities. Resolution 1504 approved to structure PTO 80 hours up front to ensure employee retention and minimize logistical costs of tracking accrual of time.
- Residents are invited to attend a safety and security task force meeting on Thursday January 11th at 5:00 p.m. (prior to the next City Council meeting). The public and other key stakeholders such as NOHOA and North Oaks Company are invited to come in and share questions, thoughts and concerns over safety in our community and possible solutions.
- Committee continues to work on the Master Infrastructure Plan including water use, road standards and an interactive website for the community to provide feedback on these topics.
- A new Ninenorth technical manager has been hired to replace Pat Cook. Damon Price will begin

January 2nd and will help support North Oaks cable broadcast and display needs.

- North Oaks was selected as a "Best Cities under 10,000 population" by Business View Magazine. City staff will work with other key community stakeholders to develop information for article.

[View the 12.14.23 City Council Meeting](#)

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- Silver Sponsors: Snowbird and Northern Stars
- In Kind Sponsors: Suite Living and North Oaks Golf Club

COMMUNITY NEWS

Check in with Neighbors!

Going out of town for the holidays? The holidays are a great time and check in with your neighbors to let them know of your plans. Look out for each other and have a contact number if you note any unusual activity. Building community is a highlight of living in North Oaks.



Happy and safe holidays to those of you traveling!

SAFETY



Prevent Package Theft This Holiday Season

During the holiday season, "Porch Pirates" take advantage of increased package deliveries to steal from homeowners. The City has received several reports of package theft in recent weeks near Cunningham Road and Hill Farm/Red Barn areas. Consider the following tips to prevent package theft at your home:

- Ask a trustworthy neighbor to watch for and retrieve your package when it is delivered.
- Request "signature required" service from the delivery company.
- Place a storage container, such as a large Rubbermaid, on your stoop for packages to be placed in so they are not readily seen by people driving by.
- Place a note on front door asking delivery driver to leave packages on the back steps.
- Have packages delivered to your work or a business address if possible.
- Deposit outgoing mail in official USPS drop boxes.

If a package has been inadvertently left on your doorstep, be a good neighbor and drop it off at the intended home or return it to the delivery carrier.

For more tips and resources to prevent theft and protect your deliveries check out the article below:

[How to Keep Packages From Being Stolen by Porch](#)

Deputy Matt - Monthly Security Report

137 Calls for Service during month of November:
Notable:

- Thefts at Spring Farm Development of construction equipment; three over Thanksgiving weekend.
- Porch Pirate on Cunningham
- Catalytic converter theft at Incarnation Lutheran Church
- Suspicious activity: Mentally ill person in van on West Shore; kidnapping on Ridge Road - unfounded
- 25 alarm calls, 8 of which were at Hill Farm Road
- Possible road rage on Leaf Wing Drive
- 20 traffic stops



Safety and Security:

- Package theft season - thefts on Cunningham, and Hill Farm Rd/Evergreen Road areas
- Housing watch information; Inform neighbors; Snow removal
- DO NOT CALL DEPUTY MATT FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUES - CALL 911

Other

- Block Captain informational meeting: 6:30 p.m. January 16th - 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive in Arden Hills

NATURAL RESOURCES

Volunteer with the DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has put out a call for volunteers! You can help make a difference in a number of programs, including the Adopt-A-Wildlife Management Area, Minnesota PlantWatch Program, the Bird by Bird Program, and more.



For more information, visit: [MN DNR Volunteer Opportunities - Winter 2023-24](#)

Dry Conditions throughout Minnesota increase potential for Wildfires

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages Minnesotans to use caution and stay aware of wildfire risk. Lack of snow and unusually warm, dry conditions over the next week are likely to increase fire danger in much of Minnesota. Dry, brown grasses and vegetation mean wildfires can start easily and spread quickly; this elevated risk is likely to persist until we have continuous snow cover.

It is best to wait to burn brush or vegetative debris until there is at least 3 inches of snow cover on the ground. Alternatively, Minnesotans are asked to consider composting, chipping, or transporting materials to a brush collection site as alternatives to burning.

Check current conditions on the [DNR fire danger and burning restrictions webpage](#). Also, be sure to follow safe debris burning tips: (mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debrisburning) to help reduce wildfire risk.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **Age-Friendly North Oaks Open House** - Wednesday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- **Safety and Security Meeting** - Thursday, January 11th at 5:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** - Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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[City Calendar](#)

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- Age-Friendly North Oaks - Residents Invited to Provide Feedback
- Santa Visits North Oaks
- NOHOA Winterfest Recap
- Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste and Yard Waste Winter Hours
- Holiday Light Displays
- Christmas Tree Safety
- DNR Eagle Cam

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)



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Phone: (651) 792-7750

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Fri: 9AM to 12PM
Email Us



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Eblast for the Week of 12.22.2023

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS



Reminder: City Hall Holiday Schedule

The North Oaks City Hall Office will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday. City Staff may be processing requests remotely Wednesday-Friday December 27th - 29th. The

office will be closed again for New Year's Day on Monday, January 1st, and will re-open for regular business hours on Tuesday, January 2nd.

During the holiday period, please email requests to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov for most efficient assistance.

Happy Holidays from the City of North Oaks!

Recycling Holiday Schedule - NO Shifts in Days

There will be **NO recycling day shifts** the week of December 25th or January 1st. Please set your recycling bins out on your regularly scheduled days on these weeks.



*Please check with your garbage service provider to determine if there will be any shifts due to their holiday schedule.

Age-Friendly North Oaks - Open House Re-Cap and Survey Deadline Extension

Thank you to those residents who attended the Age-Friendly North Oaks Open House on Wednesday, December 20th. This event shared information about the Age-Friendly Minnesota (AFMN) Grant that the City of North Oaks has been awarded.

The grant is for a community visioning project to create an Age-Friendly Community Vision and Strategic Action Plan for the City.



At the event, residents learned about the \$22,000 grant and shared feedback on a variety of topics, including making the trails more age-friendly, the need for transportation options in the city, as well as how to encourage social connections between seniors who may be experiencing isolation.

For those who missed the event, there is still time to provide feedback. **The deadline to complete the Age-Friendly North Oaks Survey has been extended to December 29th.** The results from this survey will be used to create a vision statement and age-friendly principles to be used to create the final plan. To take the survey, click on the link below:

[Age-Friendly North Oaks Survey](#)

Thank you again to the following sponsors who donated to the open house event:

- Title Sponsor: Waverly Gardens
- Gold Sponsor: North Oaks Company
- Silver Sponsors: Snowbird and Northern Stars
- In Kind Sponsors: Suite Living and North Oaks Golf Club

Thank you for Providers

In response to inquiries, residents wishing to provide a thank you to service providers such as Peterson Waddle Recycling or Mel's Services but wary of leaving them outside, are welcome to mail them to North Oaks City Hall c/o "xxxxx" and they will be distributed as marked. City Hall is 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Live Christmas Tree Disposal

Winding down from Christmas and need to dispose of your live tree? North Oaks Boy Scouts Venture Troop 639 are collecting Christmas trees curbside in North Oaks on January 6th and 13th as a fundraiser. If you would like to sign up, reserve your pick-up day: <https://venture-crew-639.company.site>. A \$25 donation per tree is recommended.

These donations will allow scouts to pay for campouts, hikes, summer camp, and other activities that help kids get active in the outdoors. Thank you for supporting our local scouts!

[Schedule Tree Pickup](#)

Holiday Recycling Reminders from Eureka Recycling

The holiday season brings an increase in waste and recycling materials for many households. Eureka Recycling has created a guide to celebrating a zero-waste holiday, and tips for dispose of holiday items responsibly this season.

For more information, visit their website at the following link:

[Eureka's 2023 Guide to a Zero-Waste Holiday](#) and check-out their Holiday Disposal Tips Chart below.



SAFETY

Holiday Travel Safety Tips

For those traveling over the holiday a few safety tips:

- Share your travel plans with loved ones but be wary of posting them on social media.
- Tell neighbors of your plans along with a contact number in case of emergency
- Make arrangements for someone to bring in and safeguard any delayed packages that didn't arrive before holiday.

Safe Travels!

- Do not leave visible packages and gifts in car while at rest stops and overnight in hotels.
- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy driving. Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled.

Have a safety and happy holiday week!!

NATURAL RESOURCES

Debris / Wood Clean-up along Roadways

For safety purposes, it may be necessary for Mel's services to take down trees or branches that are a safety hazards to roads. They will drop the tree and clear the roadway, but it is the **resident's responsibility to have the remaining debris removed.**



There are still areas in our community in which wood is still piled up on roadsides from the storm in the summer. With the delay in "winter weather" it is a great opportunity to take care of these areas before they get buried under snow. Thank you for keeping our community a clean and lovely place to live.

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- **Safety and Security Meeting** - Thursday, January 11th at 5:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** - Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

- Highlights from the December City Council meeting
- Holiday Safety Tips - Check-In with Neighbors and Package Theft Prevention
- Deputy Matt Monthly Security Report
- Volunteer with the DNR
- Dry Conditions in Minnesota Increase Potential for Wildfires

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

North Oaks



100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750



HOURS
Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4 PM
Fri: 9AM to 12PM
[Email Us](#)

City of North Oaks | 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127

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