

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—1/07/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council Meeting – Strategy Session

To kick off the year set the foundation for 2022, There will be a special meeting of the City Council to discuss priorities and goals for the upcoming year. This meeting will take place at the North Oaks Golf Club at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8th. A zoom link will be open for members of the public who wish to listen in. Details can be found [HERE](#).

Planning Commission highlights

Highlights from the December 31st and January 6th Planning Commission meetings include:

- Discussion and public hearing on Conditional Use permit for 3 Eastview Lane for new home height. Recommendation for approval will move to City Council for final review.
- Review of Conditional Use permit for 6 Sherwood Trail for new home height. Discussion and public hearing took place during both the 12/31 and 1/6 meetings. Review has been tabled to the January 27th Planning Commission meeting pending soil boring data to determine ground water elevation at the subject property. Additional citizen comments can be submitted to kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

Looking to Recycle Holiday Lights? – Bring them to City Hall

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 Green Lights Recycling.

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](#).

2022 Recycling Calendar published

During the year 2022, the ONLY shift in recycling will be Thanksgiving week. When in doubt, feel free to check the [recycling calendar](#) on the City website.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Holiday Tree Pickup

If you're ready to dispose of your tree, keep in mind there is no citywide contract for this service. You'll need or contact your respective garbage hauler directly to determine if they pick up and what the rate will be. The number for Waste Management is 952-656-2084, Walters is 763-780-8464, or Republic is 651-455-8634.

Better yet - consider supporting local Boy Scout Troop 639 by having them pickup and dispose of it. You can schedule with boy scouts [HERE](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Become a Recycling Ambassador in 2022

Ramsey County is recruiting volunteers for their Recycling Ambassador training program. This six-week training will teach you about environmental health, waste systems and recycling. Volunteers will use their knowledge as Recycling Ambassadors to encourage others to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Training workshops take place virtually, and are held every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m., March 15-April 19. For more information and to register, visit www.RamseyCounty.us/RecyclingAmbassador

Keep our Septic and Plumbing Systems Healthy

To avoid problems with both private septic systems and public sewer lines, please do not flush wipes down sewer lines. All wipes, even those marketed as “flushable” can clog up pumps and lift stations. It is also recommended that you space out your laundry, dishwasher and shower/bath water usage as to not overload frozen winter septic drain fields. Additional important system tips can be found [HERE](#).

SAFETY

COVID Testing Locations

Many people are looking for testing locations following holiday gatherings and an increase in the Omicron virus.

- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a test at one of the state’s free [community testing sites](#) or find a testing option near you through the state’s testing location map. * Update: The former Lino Lakes YMCA Community test location has closed, and is relocating to North Branch beginning Monday January 10th.
- [Order a test](#) through the state’s free at-home COVID-19 testing program.

If you are looking for boosters - click [HERE](#). Stay safe and healthy!

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

General ice safety / Ice Fishing prohibited in North Oaks

Just a reminder that fishing is prohibited on North Oaks lakes. For those of you who will ice fishing on neighboring lakes, consider the following tips from the DNR. No ice can ever be considered “safe ice,” but following [these guidelines](#) can help minimize the risk:

- Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
- Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.
- Don’t go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.
- Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.

The minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice are:

- 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- 8-12 inches for a car or small pickup.
- 12-15 inches for a medium truck.
- Double these minimums for white or snow-covered ice.

For more information, visit mndnr.gov/icesafety and mndnr.gov/boatingsafety.

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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. Contact the City if you would like to view a recording of a past NRC Meeting.

- **City Council Special Meeting** – Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the North Oaks Golf Club/Zoom
- **City Council Meeting** -Thursday, January 13th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Thursday, January 20th at 7 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, January 27 at 7 p.m.

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

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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—1/14/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Martin Luther King Day – City Office Closed

In observance of Martin Luther King federal holiday, the City office will be closed on Monday, January 17th, 2021.

City Council Meeting Summary

Highlights from last night's City Council include:

- Council members approved the 2022 City Hall Holiday Schedule and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Council also approved a CUP application for a home in excess of 35' in height for 3 Eastview Lane.
- Deputy Burrell reported that there was one car theft and a couple mail package thefts in the past month. He noted that neighboring cities have had numerous reports of thefts from autos. So far there have not been any in North Oaks, but residents are encouraged to keep an eye on this. Reports of fraud also continue to plague contract cities, but there have been no new reports of fraud in North Oaks in the last month. (*see new fraud video below under safety)
- City Forester Mark Rehder gave an update on forestry work in 2021. At present, Emerald Ash Borer is their primary focus. 25 Ash trees were marked in 2021. They will continue to work on their detection and notification process in 2022. Full report is included in the Council Packet.
- Council members approved a resolution to allow the membership of the Natural Resources Commission to allow not more than 9 members. They also approved the appointment of Addie Motta for a three-year term, and the reappointment of Andrew Hawkins for a 3-year term, and the appointment of Paul Ellis for a 2-year term.
- Council members approved Planning Commission appointments of Scott Wiens for a 3-year term, Robert Ostlund for a 3-year term and the reappointment of Nick Sandell for a 3-year term.
- Council approved the 2022 Fee Schedule Ordinance.

City Council 2022 Strategy Session

Last Saturday, members of City Council meet to discuss City goals and priorities for the 2022 year. Residents can watch this session [HERE](#).

Sewer and Water Bills

Quarterly sewer / water invoices have been sent out to those who receive services through Shoreview. If you are dropping it off in person, please slide it under the City office door if staff is working remote. If there are any questions, contact the City office at 651-792-7750. If you wish to pay your invoice online click [HERE](#).

*Reminder – NOHOA Association dues go directly to NOHOA staff one office suite down from City Hall. (not City hall).

Permit Processing Reminders

While outdoor work has slowed, interior home improvement has increased. Don't forget to remind your licensed contractors to contact City hall via phone or email to complete any permits needed for work to be done. All building permit forms can be found [HERE](#).

SAFETY

Fraudulent Activity – Tips to avoid Computer Phishing

Ramsey County Deputy Mike Burrell gives important tips and examples for residents in this [3-minute video](#), on how to avoiding phishing scams. It can be more difficult than you think to identify fraudsters – be aware when viewing and responding to emails that look legitimate!

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2022 Recycling Calendar published

During the year 2022, the ONLY shift in recycling will be on Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving. Those with pickups on those days, will have recycling picked up one day later. Reminders will be posted in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. When in doubt, feel free to check the [recycling calendar](#) on the City website.

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Better yet - consider supporting local Boy Scout Troop 639 by having them pickup and dispose of it. You can schedule with boy scouts [HERE](#). The last day for Scout pickups is Saturday, January 15th.

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- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Thursday, January 20th at 7 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, January 27th at 7 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 10th at 7 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—1/28/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from Natural Resource Commission Meeting – 1/20/2022

- Discussed 2022 priorities for Natural Resource Commission
- Brainstormed ideas for future education articles and established an Education Outreach subcommittee. Any interested residents who may wish to part of this committee, email amotta@northoaksmn.gov.
- Discussed shifting NRC meetings to the 2nd Monday of each Month beginning in March
- City forester provided summary of 2022 annual report. Refer [here](#) for the full report.
- Discussed status of deer management program – still on hold pending enough snow for an aerial survey.
- Wetland Ordinance project -committee is pulling together all references to wetlands within City ordinances and policies, comparing for any substantive references to see if revisions or consolidation needs to be made. Comp plan and PDA references will be included in this summary.
- An update was given as to VLAWMO 2022 priorities.
- Discussions will continue at the February meeting for selection of chair/vice chair of Natural Resource Commission for 2022.

Highlights from Planning Commission Meeting - 1/27/2022

- Welcomed new Planning Commissioners Scott Wiens, Robert Ostlund, and returning member Nick Sandell who were sworn in this week. Their terms will end December 31, 2024.
- The Planning Commission approved a septic variance for the property at 9 Ridge Road. The recommendation will go before City Council at the February 10th meeting.
- A CUP for the property at 14 Cherrywood Lane was tabled until next month's meeting. The applicant will work with city staff to resolve outstanding issues with the application.
- CUPs for properties at 6, 10, 14 and 16 Sherwood Trail were approved. They will go before City Council for final approval at the February meeting.
- The Planning Commission discussed the 2022 meeting schedule and decided to continue meeting on the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. They will consider adding special meeting times as necessary should business items require additional information and discussion.

Road Restrictions – Plan ahead

We are beginning to get calls inquiring when road restrictions will take effect. They are NOT currently in effect but you do need to plan ahead.

Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation guidance. While the 3 ton per axle restriction typically has gone into effect early-March in the past, we only receive a 48-hour notice from MN DOT of the date/time when restrictions take effect. As soon as we receive notice, we will publish this on the website, Facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, NOHOA eblast.

There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency. If you are anticipating large contractor deliveries within the next 8-10 weeks, **plan ahead now or delivery loads will need to be split into smaller trucks.**

SAFETY

Speed Limit in Rapp Farm reduced effective 2/1/2022

In December 2021, the City of North Oaks discussed speed limits and safety concerns brought forth by residents within the Rapp Farm Development. In August 2019, State Statutes changed authorizing cities to be the local road authority on their own City streets, therefore it was determined streets fall under City of North Oaks jurisdiction.

Speed limit changes are to be based on safety, engineering and traffic analysis. An engineering review was performed and after consultation with the NOHOA Board, it was determined a speed reduction from 30 MPH to 20 MPH on streets within the Rapp Farm Development is a reasonable approach to help reduce conflicts, the likelihood of being in a crash and the severity of crashes that do occur.

Therefore, the City Council will reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH within the Rapp Farm Development effective 2-1-2022. Speed limit signs have been posted at both Rapp Farm entrances.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Pleasant Lake Activity

VLAWMO, Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, is out on the Pleasant Lake this week conducting authorized activity as part of a 3-year project to address invasive carp which are affecting water quality and the natural ecosystem.

Lawns to Legumes Grant Program

The State of Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has renewed funding for its Lawns to Legumes program that aims to increase pollinator habitat across the state. The application window is now open for this Grant program. Individual homeowners can also apply. See below for details.

Individual homeowners have the option to apply for reimbursement up to \$300 on costs associated with establishing pollinator habitats in their yards. [Click here to apply for individual project funding](#). The application deadline is February 15th, 2022.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

New Federal Testing Site in Saint Paul

If you are looking for a vaccine –search the [Vaccine Finder](#) to search by zip code. Also, a new COVID-19 testing site providing up to 1,000 nasal swab PCR tests per day opened on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Building. The site will be free and open to anyone daily from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will operate through Feb. 14.

MnDOT Building

395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Appointments are highly recommended, though a small number of walk-ins will be accepted each day. To guarantee a test, register directly with the testing provider at [I Need a COVID-19 Test](#). Appointment slots will open online on Friday afternoon.

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- Council members approved a resolution to increase membership of the Natural Resources Commission to allow not less than 7 members and not more than 9 members. They also approved the appointment of Addison Motta for a three-year term to replace Kate Winsor, the reappointment of Andrew Hawkins for a 3-year term, and the appointment of Paul Ellis for a 2-year term. Council also approved Scott Wiens, Bob Ostlund, and Nick Sandell as Planning Commissioners.
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- Refer [HERE](#) to watch the full Council meeting.

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- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 10th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Thursday, February 17th at 7 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, February 24th at 7 p.m.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/4/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Ordinance on ATV's and Snowmobiles

Just a reminder that per City Traffic and Parking Ordinance 70, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and snow mobiles are NOT allowed on City of North Oaks streets, NOHOA property and trails, or any other person's property. Refer to section 70 – 70.07 of the [full ordinance](#) for further details.

Coyotes -Breeding season

As we enter the spring, Coyotes may become more active with the mating season beginning in January and lasting through February. Five to seven pups are typically born in April and may be protective of their young. Please keep a careful watch on your pets when they are outside and as always, please keep your pets leashed on trails. If Coyotes do encroach your yard, make them feel as unwelcome as possible using hazing techniques such as loud noises, and yelling to encourage them to move on. For further information refer to [DNR links](#) describing their habits and dealing with [Urban Coyotes](#).

Additional information on coexisting with our coyotes and a full presentation on this topic from March 2019 and January 2020 with featured speakers from DNR, Ramsey County Sherriff Animal control and U of M can be viewed [here](#).

SAFETY

Be a Hard Target - Do not Leave Cars Running

Deputy Burrell reminds residents of the importance of not leaving your car running and unattended for any amount of time. Recently in neighboring Shoreview, investigation of a stolen vehicle led to a suspect stealing 4 cars within a 90-minute period all of which were left running and unoccupied. It's an important reminder to turn off your vehicle and lock doors even when running into gas stations or making quick stops. Great job by Ramsey County Sheriffs for helping to track down and identify this suspect!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

North Oaks Garden Club

Are you a gardener? Are you interested in beautifying our North Oaks community? North Oaks residents are encouraged to join the North Oaks Garden Club. The Garden Club is a non-profit organization that puts on education presentations on a wide range of gardening topics and holds a Plant Sale each May which supports community projects in and around North Oaks, Past projects have included landscaping at the West Rec, Chippewa Middle School, Mary Hill Park, Pleasant Lake beach improvements and Southpointe garden and trees, as well as annual holiday signpost decorations and many other community projects.

For more information, visit their website: nogardenclub.com or send an email to nogardenclub@gmail.com.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Press release: January 31, 2022 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources news bulletin.

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 can be found the [pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website](https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/pests/diseases/oak-wilt/pruning-trees-and-shrubs) (tinyurl.com/2p8c7bhv).

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](https://www.mndnr.gov/treecare) (mndnr.gov/treecare).

***** Looking for an arborist to do pruning work? Click [HERE](#) for the list of arborists licensed by the City of North Oaks and familiar with North Oaks unique regulations.**

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- Brainstormed ideas for future education articles and established an Education Outreach subcommittee. Any interested residents who may wish to part of this committee, email amotta@northoaksmn.gov.
- Discussed shifting NRC meetings to the 2nd Monday of each Month beginning in March
- City forester provided summary of 2022 annual report. Refer [here](#) for the full report.
- Discussed status of deer management program – still on hold pending enough snow for an aerial survey.
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There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency. If you are anticipating large contractor deliveries within the next 8-10 weeks, **plan ahead now or delivery loads will need to be split into smaller trucks.** [Road Restrictions - Start Planning Ahead | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

Speed Limit in Rapp Farm reduced effective 2/1/2022

In December 2021, the City of North Oaks discussed speed limits and safety concerns brought forth by residents within the Rapp Farm Development. Speed limit changes are to be based on safety, engineering and traffic analysis. An engineering review was performed and after consultation with the NOHOA Board, it was determined a speed reduction from 30 MPH to 20 MPH on streets within the Rapp Farm Development is a reasonable approach to help reduce conflicts, the likelihood of being in a crash and the severity of crashes that do occur.

Therefore, the City Council reduced the speed limit to 20 MPH within the Rapp Farm Development effective 2-1-2022. Speed limit signs have been posted at both Rapp Farm entrances.

Lawns to Legumes Grant Program

The State of Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has renewed funding for its Lawns to Legumes program that aims to increase pollinator habitat across the state. The application window is now open for this Grant program. Individual homeowners can also apply. See below for details.

Individual homeowners have the option to apply for reimbursement up to \$300 on costs associated with establishing pollinator habitats in their yards. [Click here to apply for individual project funding](#). The application deadline is February 15th, 2022.

New Federal Testing Site in Saint Paul

If you are looking for a vaccine –search the [Vaccine Finder](#) to search by zip code. Also, a new COVID-19 testing site providing up to 1,000 nasal swab PCR tests per day opened on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Building at 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155. The site will be free and open to anyone daily from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will operate through Feb. 14.

Appointments are highly recommended, though a small number of walk-ins will be accepted each day. To guarantee a test, register directly with the testing provider at [I Need a COVID-19 Test](#). Appointment slots will open online on Friday afternoon.

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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. Contact the City if you would like to view a recording of a past NRC Meeting.

- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 10th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Thursday, February 17th at 7 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, February 24th at 7 p.m.

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

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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—2/11/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the City Council Meeting - 2/10/2022

- City Council approved addition of a Council workshop session at 6 p.m. prior to each regular 7 p.m. Council meeting for the remainder of the year. This session will be used if additional discussion is required on a particular topic, and cancelled if not needed.
- Council voted to deny Red Forest Way Final subdivision.
- Motion approved to send Conditional Use permit applications for 6, 10, 14, and 16 Sherwood Trail back to the Planning Commission. A meeting will be scheduled to determine clarity around the zoning ordinance term “naturally suited” for a walk out, then be presented back to Council at the March 10th meeting.
- A Septic variance application for property located at 9 Ridge Road was approved.
- Council considered a resident request to extend sewer services from Rapp Farm to new lots at 15 and 17 Sherwood Trail. Item was tabled to gain more information.
- The City Hall office lease is up May 1st. City staff and Councilor Hara will continue discussions and work on lease options for City Hall, while keeping in communication with NOHOA’s plans for office space.
- Council motioned to ask the Natural Resource Commission to consider possible development of a Climate plan and any tactical steps to reduce carbon footprint within North Oaks.
- A proposal for connecting Charley Lake Townhomes to Shoreview water will be presented at the March Council meeting.
- Councilor Watson communicated that NOHOA is looking at possible improvement of the Highway 96 ponds. He suggested City also look at Highway 96 road agreement file for prior information on these ponds.
- Councilor Dujmovic worked on a memo of understanding regarding Deputy Burrell to clarify his duties and our expectations of Ramsey County Sherriff during the hours Burrell is not on shift.
- Councilor Hara noted there is still not enough snow for deer management aerial survey. Hope to still get this deer count information this winter so have a foundation for decisions next season.

- Hara mentioned Natural Resource Commission will need to select a new Chair as Andrew Hawkins has taken on board position with NOHOA. The Rapp Farm speed limit reduction to 20 MPH took effect Feb. 1st. The office space solution has taken a fair amount of time, but they are getting further down the line. He will also consider option of dual lease with NOHOA.
- Councilor Shah noted a general uptick in crime in the surrounding areas. Residents still highly focused on desire for security/technology and encourages Council to take some initiatives or move it forward this year.
- Mayor Ries suggested the possibility of a Safety and Security committee to bring to Council for consideration. She looks forward to reviewing the Lease agreement with the City space configuration at the next Council meeting. She requested a follow up with Rapp Farm residents on Safety / security.
- Administrator Kress received one proposal for a new City Planner, but will try to get a few more so the Council has options for selection.
- The City Engineering report has been submitted to Council for review. Engineer Korby also encouraged City to opt out of MS4.

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

Notice of Proposed Ordinance

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Vaccine Mandates lifted in St. Paul/Minneapolis

On February 10th, the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis dropped their vaccine-or-test mandate, effective immediately. For businesses in the Twin Cities, Super Bowl and Valentine's Day weekends weekend are important to their bottom line. Get out and support our local businesses!

NATURAL RESOURCES

Invasive Species Webinar

Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division is hosting a Zoom webinar featuring the invasive knotweed (Fallopia, Polygonum, or Reynoutria) species. The webinar will be held on Monday, February 28th, from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM CST. Guest speakers with exciting research and experience will be in attendance.

Topics of the webinar will include

- What are knotweed species and why are they harmful
- How to identify knotweeds
- The life cycle of knotweeds
- Chemical and non-chemical treatment methods
- Time for open questions and discussion with guest speakers and other experts

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91575074511?pwd=aHRVMHhYaGdqE1FZmhleFUwVFM2UT09>

Meeting ID: 915 7507 4511

Passcode: 859745

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REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Ordinance on ATV's and Snowmobiles

Just a reminder that per City Traffic and Parking Ordinance 70, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and snow mobiles are NOT allowed on City of North Oaks streets, NOHOA property and trails, or any other person's property. Refer to section 70 – 70.07 of the [full ordinance](#) for further details.

Coyotes -Breeding season

As we enter the spring, Coyotes may become more active with the mating season beginning in January and lasting through February. Five to seven pups are typically born in April and may be protective of their young. Please keep a careful watch on your pets when they are outside and as always, please keep your pets leashed on trails. If Coyotes do encroach your yard, make them feel as unwelcome as possible using hazing techniques such as loud noises, and yelling to encourage them to move on. For further information refer to [DNR links](#) describing their habits and dealing with [Urban Coyotes](#).

Additional information on coexisting with our coyotes and a full presentation on this topic from March 2019 and January 2020 with featured speakers from DNR, Ramsey County Sherriff Animal control and U of M can be viewed [here](#).

Be a Hard Target - Do not Leave Cars Running

Deputy Burrell reminds residents of the importance of not leaving your car running and unattended for any amount of time. Recently in neighboring Shoreview, investigation of a stolen vehicle led to a suspect stealing 4 cars within a 90-minute period all of which were left running and unoccupied. It's an important reminder to turn off your vehicle and lock doors even when running into gas stations or making quick stops. Great job by Ramsey County Sheriffs for helping to track down and identify this suspect!

North Oaks Garden Club

Are you a gardener? Are you interested in beautifying our North Oaks community? North Oaks residents are encouraged to join the North Oaks Garden Club. The Garden Club is a non-profit organization that puts on education presentations on a wide range of gardening topics and holds a Plant Sale each May which supports community projects in and around North Oaks, Past projects have included landscaping at the West Rec, Chippewa Middle School, Mary Hill Park, Pleasant Lake beach improvements and Southpointe garden and trees, as well as annual holiday signpost decorations and many other community projects.

For more information, visit their website: nogardenclub.com or send an email to nogardenclub@gmail.com.

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. “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 can be found the [pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website](http://tinyurl.com/2p8c7bhv) (tinyurl.com/2p8c7bhv).

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).

***** Looking for an arborist to do pruning work? Click [HERE](#) for the list of arborists licensed by the City of North Oaks and familiar with North Oaks unique regulations**

Road Restrictions – Plan ahead

We are beginning to get calls inquiring when road restrictions will take effect. They are NOT currently in effect but you do need to plan ahead. The City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation guidance. While the 3 ton per axle restriction typically has gone into effect early-March in the past, we only receive a 48-hour notice from MN DOT of the date/time when restrictions take effect.

There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency. If you are anticipating large contractor deliveries within the next 8-10 weeks, **plan ahead now or delivery loads will need to be split into smaller trucks**. Refer here for the most current news on road restrictions. [Road Restrictions - Start Planning Ahead | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](http://northoaksmn.gov)

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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—2/18/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Hall – Closed Presidents Day

The City office will be closed on Monday, February 21st in observance of Presidents Day.

Special City Council meeting – 2/22/2022

There will be a special meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, February 22nd at 7 p.m. to meet with its attorneys in a closed session under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss the pending litigation of North Oaks Company, LLC, V. City of North Oaks, venued in Ramsey County, Court File No. 62-CV-21-5617.

The meeting notices can be found [HERE](#).

Highlights from 2/17/2022 Natural Resource Commission Meeting

- The NRC discussed the potential for a Climate Emergency Resolution for the City of North Oaks. They agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting in early March to brainstorm ideas for such a resolution and then further flush out these ideas at the regular March NRC Meeting.
- Phase II of the Pesticide Education Plan was approved to move forward to City Council for review.
- The Commission adopted a new meeting schedule for 2022. Meetings will move to the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
- Commissioners discussed the status of a potential internship program they are working on for undergraduate or high school students. A job description is being developed and will be shared with NRC members and City Council soon.
- The Tick Task Force will begin meeting again in March to start planning for Spring and Summer.

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Links to participate and the full agenda packet can be found [HERE](#) 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Locking Mailbox – new orders

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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- Feb. 19
- April 23
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- Nov. 25

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Deer Resistant Plants – Spring/Summer Plantings

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Highlights from the City Council Meeting - 2/10/2022

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- Motion approved to send Conditional Use permit applications for 6, 10, 14, and 16 Sherwood Trail back to the Planning Commission. A meeting will be scheduled to determine clarity around the zoning ordinance term “naturally suited” for a walk out, then be presented back to Council at the March 10th meeting.
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Meeting ID: 915 7507 4511

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- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, March 10th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, March 14th at 7 p.m.

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City of North Oaks
City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—2/25/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the 2/24/2022 Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing and bringing recommendations forth to City Council for final review and decision. All matters below will be discussed at the March 10th City Council 7 p.m. meeting for consideration.

- Motion approved to amend the fence screening ordinance 151.034 to allow up to 10-foot, solid fencing in the L1 Light Industrial District zoning district. This would allow NOHOA to enhance safety, provide additional shielding, and help limit trespassing at the maintenance center. Any additional comments on this issue can be sent to kkress@northoaksmn.gov.
- Conditional Use permit for extra height for new home construction at 14 Cherrywood Circle was denied based on setbacks. The Conditional use permit for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at this property was approved. Both CUP applications for height and garage space will move up to the City Council for final consideration.
- There was extensive discussion of guidelines to help quantify when a home is naturally suited for a walk out, to minimize impact on natural topography. Quantifiable Guidelines will help the Planning Commission and Council determine when a Conditional use permit for height can be granted while preserving the natural character of the area. The guidelines focus on having a minimum 6-8-foot difference in elevation difference between front of home and back of home with land in its natural state.
- After extensive discussion of revised plans and impact on natural topography, Conditional Use permit applications for height in excess of 35 feet for new homes at 6, 14, and 16 Sherwood Trail were approved. Application for 6 Sherwood Trail is now designed as a basement lookout, with 14 and 16 Sherwood Trail as walkouts.
- There will be a special Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. to consider revised plans for the CUP for height at 10 Sherwood Trail.

The meeting packet materials can be found [on the city website](#), or watch the full meeting [HERE](#).

Natural Resource Special Climate Action Plan meeting – 3/2/2022

There will be a special meeting of the Natural Resource Commission to discuss a possible verbiage for a Climate Action plan resolution on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Any material drafted would then be presented to City Council at their March meeting. The meeting Zoom link can be found [HERE](#) For those who would like to participate.

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Last week of Collection at City Hall: Looking to Recycle broken Holiday Lights?

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 Green Lights Recycling

SAFETY

Car-Jackings at Rosedale Mall

On February 14 and 16th there were car jackings in the Rosedale Mall parking lot in the middle of the day. Refer to the [press release from the Roseville Police Department](#) on these incidents and for safety tips to share with your family.

Clear Snow from Outdoor Vents

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. Be sure to also clear snow from around dryer vents, and gas and electric meters.

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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. Contact the City if you would like to view a recording of a past NRC Meeting.

- **Natural Resources Special Meeting** – Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 at 7 p.m.
- **Special Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 at 7 p.m.
- **City Council Workshop** – Thursday, March 10th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, March 10th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, March 14th at 7 p.m.

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

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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—3/11/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Reminder: Spring Forward for Daylight Saving Time on March 13

Sunday, March 13 is the first day of Daylight-Saving Time. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour!

Highlights from the 3/10/2022 City Council Meeting

- Charley Lake Townhome Association asked Council for their support to continue researching connection to Shoreview City Water.
- New guidelines were reviewed which quantify land use Ordinance 151.050, related to what is considered “naturally suited” to develop a property as a walk out/look out basement. No action taken – document will be reviewed again at the next Planning Commission to ensure wording makes sense and applicable for review of future CUP applications.
- North Oaks City office lease expires at the end of May. Councilor Hara has been working with current building management company regarding renewal options, as well as researching cost of a standalone building for both NOHOA/City.
- Climate Action resolution will be sent back to Natural Resource Commission to streamline verbiage to apply to North Oaks.
- Approved a revision to Fence ordinance 151.034(b) to allow up to a 10-foot solid fence in the Limited Industrial district. This is in response to a request by NOHOA to help shield Mel’s service center from neighbors and secure it from trespassers.
- Council discussed the possibility of a public safety committee and what the focus and charter could be. This would work in conjunction with NOHOA and the Ramsey County Sheriff’s office, with the input of public without duplicating other existing initiatives. Will look to schedule a resident town hall meeting on public safety with NOHOA. A core focus would be speeding, and distinguishing City public safety responsibilities according to state law and take them seriously.
- Approved Joint Powers Agreement with White Bear Township for maintenance of North Oaks Golf Course new sewer lift station.
- Discussed need for emergency sirens in our community. Working with Lake Johanna fire department to determine potential locations and how many may be needed. Each siren costs \$25,000 and Rapp Farm area is showing as a gap in coverage. Information will be communicated to get input from the community.
- Council interviewed and approved new City Planner Kendra Lindahl, from Landform.
- Starting with the January 2022 meeting, zoom links to re-watch the Natural Resource meetings have been added to each meeting entry on the city calendar. Residents are encouraged to participate in meetings, and/or [view meeting minutes](#).
- Councilors are working with attorneys through the mediation process to address the litigation with North Oaks Company regarding the proposed Gate Hill Subdivision.
- Council will schedule another Goal setting meeting / status check in April or May.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the full City Council Session of March 10, 2022, or view the [meeting packet](#).

Road Restrictions Coming Next Week – Effective Wednesday, March 16th

The City of North Oaks has received notice from the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation that road restrictions go in effect beginning **12:01 a.m. on Wednesday March 16th, 2022**. 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. Larger loads will need to be split onto smaller trucks during this period. Plan ahead now.

There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions throughout the City during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency. Overweight permit exceptions can only be granted through the North Oaks Homeowners association, 651-792-7765. Violations of road restrictions are subject to ticketing during this period.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ice Safety Rescue Drills

Did you notice fire department activity on Pleasant Lake this week? The Lake Johanna Fire Department was conducting ice rescue drills in the dark. Check out the pics on the Lake Johanna Facebook page. [Lake Johanna Fire | Facebook](#). Thank you for preparing to keep our community safe under all conditions!

SAFETY

Ramsey County Sherriff – Crime Prevention Newsletter

Click [HERE](#) for the full issue of the latest Ramsey County Sherriff crime prevention newsletter. In this issue:

- Block Captain Meeting scheduled Tuesday 3-22
- Carjack and Auto Theft: How to prevent it, Understanding from a criminal's viewpoint, How to Prevent becoming a Victim
- Barking dogs
- Dogs at large
- Consumer Protection Week

Public Safety – What is Suspicious Activity?

Have you wondered whether you should call something into 911, here are tips to help identify [what is Suspicious Activity](#) in your community as well as what it means to have a Neighborhood watch program.



Community Alert

CARJACKING & AUTO THEFT

Awareness & Prevention Tips

Common Locations of Occurrence	Vulnerable Scenarios	Safety Tips
<p>Various locations have been more frequently targeted by carjackers and car thieves. Everyone should be extra vigilant at these locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Driveways • Parking Lots & Garages • ATMs • Gas Stations 	<p>These scenarios have been regularly used by carjackers to create opportunities for thefts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattended Running Vehicles • Bump & Run Involves a minor accident, a person from the other vehicle exits their vehicle and enters your vehicle, sometimes by force. • Stranded Motorist Do NOT Stop for stranded strangers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of your surroundings. • Park in well lit visible areas. • Keep doors locked and windows up. • Give yourself room to move in traffic. • Keep your cellphone on your person. • Do NOT leave keys in the ignition. • Do NOT leave spare keys or fobs in your vehicles when running or off.
<p>Please Use Extreme Caution Remain vigilant in and around your vehicles If you see something suspicious - DIAL 911 Immediately</p>		<p>Ramsey County Sheriff's Office reach us 24/7 - call 911 www.RamseyCountySheriff.us</p>



REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Locking Mailbox – New Orders

If your mailbox has become a casualty of winter snow conditions, we are starting to take names to place an order late March once the snow melts and ground thaws. Please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. Once we reach close to the 18 orders needed for bulk discount, an order will be placed. Contact the City office with any questions 651-792-7750.

Highlights from the 2/24/2022 Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing and bringing recommendations forth to City Council for final review and decision. All matters were sent to be discussed at the March 10th City Council 7 p.m. meeting for consideration.

- Motion approved to amend the fence screening ordinance 151.034 to allow up to 10-foot, solid fencing in the L1 Light Industrial District zoning district. This would allow NOHOA to enhance safety, provide additional shielding, and help limit trespassing at the maintenance center. Any additional comments on this issue can be sent to kkress@northoaksmn.gov.
- Conditional Use permit for extra height for new home construction at 14 Cherrywood Circle was denied based on setbacks. The Conditional use permit for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at this property was approved. Both CUP applications for height and garage space will move up to the City Council for final consideration.
- There was extensive discussion of guidelines to help quantify when a home is naturally suited for a walk out, to minimize impact on natural topography. Quantifiable Guidelines will help the Planning Commission and Council determine when a Conditional use permit for height can be granted while preserving the natural character of the area. The guidelines focus on having a minimum 6-8-foot

difference in elevation difference between front of home and back of home with land in its natural state.

- After extensive discussion of revised plans and impact on natural topography, Conditional Use permit applications for height in excess of 35 feet for new homes at 6, 14, and 16 Sherwood Trail were approved. Application for 6 Sherwood Trail is now designed as a basement lookout, with 14 and 16 Sherwood Trail as walkouts.
- There will be a special Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. to consider revised plans for the CUP for height at 10 Sherwood Trail.

The meeting packet materials can be found on the city website, or watch the full meeting [HERE](#).

Clear Snow from Outdoor Vents

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. Be sure to also clear snow from around dryer vents, and gas and electric meters.

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- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting: NEW DATE AND TIME** – Monday, March 14th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Special CLOSED Meeting:** Tuesday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday, March 31st at 7 p.m.**

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City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—3/18/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from 3.14.2022 Natural Resource Commission Meeting

- Minutes of 2.17.2022 NRC meeting, and 3.3.2022 NRC meeting have been approved and posted on the [City website](#).
- Discussion of VLAWMO's draft of long range high level project planning ([page 14 of the NRC packet](#)). VLAWMO is looking for feedback at this point and will move into identifying priorities and action steps in the summer.
- Discussion of adjusting verbiage for Climate Action Resolution to be North Oaks specific as to what has been done, and opportunities our Community has to be more intentional in this area.
- Commission approved purchase of pesticide education materials to include in new resident packets. The materials should help inform residents how pesticides put on their ground impacts the environment.
- Discussed status of deer management program and the importance of quantifying where North Oaks stands in regards to the target 11-15 deer per square mile guideline that our environment can naturally support. Education materials will be developed to inform residents of City Council's plan as we enter the Fall 2022 season.
- Tick Task force will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. This coincides with the start of tick season. *See below for more detail.

The full agenda packet and link to watch the NRC meeting can be found [here](#).

Dogs on Leash

There have increasing reports of pets unleashed in public areas throughout our community. Just a reminder per City Ordinance 90.15 – 90.26, pets must be under your direct control at all times when on public property. Per NOHOA rules, pets MUST be leashed at all times on NOHOA owned trails and community spaces.

As a private community, residents own to the center of the roads and have shared access to North Oaks trails through the homeowner's association membership. It is important that residents respect others concern for their own safety, and their right to peacefully use our shared roads and trails without being approached by unleashed dogs. Residents have varying level of comfort with strange pets, with concern on how their own pets will react to unleashed animals.

Here's to warmer weather and respectfully together enjoying our great outdoors!

SAFETY

Coyotes -Breeding season – Use Caution

We have received our first report of a coyote encounter. As we enter the spring, Coyotes may become more active with the mating season beginning in January and lasting through February. Five to seven pups are typically born in April and may be protective of their young. Please keep a careful watch on your pets when they are outside and as always, please keep your pets leashed on trails. If Coyotes do encroach your yard, make them feel as unwelcome as possible using hazing techniques such as loud noises, and yelling to encourage them to move on.

Additional information on coexisting with our coyotes and a full presentation on this topic from March 2019 and January 2020 with featured speakers from DNR, Ramsey County Sherriff Animal control and U of M can be viewed on the [City website](#) or by typing "Coexisting with Coyotes" into the search bar. This includes DNR links describing their habits and dealing with Urban Coyotes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Tick Task Force Meeting Tuesday March 29th – Open to New Members

Looking for new members to join the Tick Task force. The Tick Task Force is a Natural Resources Commission group of residents with the goal of educating the community on our integrated tick management approach as well as best practices for tick borne illness prevention. There is an established program in place, and they would love new members to help join this effort and spread information on this topic to the community. If this is a topic that you would be interested in being involved in, contact Chair Andrew Hawkins at ahawkins@northoaksmn.gov. The meeting zoom code for the March 29th meeting can be found [HERE](#).

Ramsey County Recycling Guide

The Ramsey County Recycling Guide will hit resident mailboxes this week. Click [here](#) for the online version.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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:

Resilient Yards: Blue Thumb Workshop

Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (online)

Content: A workshop covering lawncare, planting choices, and drainage strategies that are geared towards resiliency.

Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

Pollinator Plantings

Tuesday, April 5th 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Virtual workshop)

Content: A special workshop to help make your yard a haven for bees, butterflies and other pollinators from lawns to native perennials. There are two parts to the workshop – videos to watch at your convenience, and then a workshop presentation by a landscape design expert to elaborate further and answer questions.

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- **Special City Council Meeting** – Tuesday, March 22nd at 6 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, April 11th at 6 p.m.
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City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/1/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council Special meeting – Tuesday, April 5th

There will be a Special City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 for the purpose of:

- Closed session with its attorneys under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss the pending litigation of North Oaks Company, LLC, V. City of North Oaks, venued in Ramsey County, Court File No. 62-CV-21-5617
- Open session to discuss the pending litigation of North Oaks Company, LLC, V. City of North Oaks, venued in Ramsey County, Court File No. 62-CV-21-5617, including the potential reconsideration of the City Council's denials of the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Gate Hill and the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Red Forest Way-South Phase One.

The meeting notices and zoom link for the OPEN session portion of the meeting can be found [HERE](#).

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the March 31, 2022 meeting include:

- Minutes from February 24th and March 3rd approved and posted to [City website](#).
- Planning Commissioners heard from Lake Johanna Fire Department Deputy Chief about options for the city to add four emergency sirens. North Oaks is currently the only city in Ramsey County that does not have emergency sirens, and some residents have expressed concern that they are not able to hear sirens from neighboring communities. Commissioners also heard from some residents on their objections to adding sirens. No actions were taken at this time. City Administrator Kress will be exploring the issue further with city staff and will present a more detailed analysis at the next meeting in April.
- An issue of code interpretation on whether Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limits apply to properties under 4,000 square feet was discussed. Commissioners agreed with City Staff's interpretation that the current city code indicates that FAR limitations do not apply for properties under 4,000 square feet.
- Planning Commissioners reviewed a draft of proposed interpretive guidelines for height-based CUPs. It was agreed that these guidelines would best be built into city code. City staff will continue to work on the guidelines and will bring them back for further discussion and possible adoption into city code at a later date.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

Locking Mailbox – Accepting New Orders / Rate increase

We are now accepting locking mailbox orders. Unfortunately, due to an unavoidable increase in materials and shipping costs, the rate of mailboxes has gone up through our mailbox provider. For 2022, the Package Master size will be \$192, Mail Manager is \$99, and the newspaper holder \$53. While this is a sizable increase, it is still less than or equal to the next cheapest option (package master is currently \$229 on Amazon, and other websites for \$280).

If you wish to order through the City, please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. We will be placing an order by mid-April for the bulk discount. Contact the City office with any questions 651-792- 7750.

COMMUNITY

Deadline for Garden Club Plant presale – April 8th

The 2022 Plant Sale for the North Oaks Garden Club will be pre-order only. All orders are **due before April 8th** and plants ordered will be delivered on two separate dates. Hanging Baskets will be delivered before Mother's Day, and should be picked up on Thursday, May 5th between 3-6 pm at the Hill Farm, 35 Hill Farm Circle, North Oaks. All Herbs, Vegetables and Annuals ordered should be picked up on Thursday, May 12th between 3-7 pm at the Hill Farm. All orders will be arranged alphabetically for ease of pickup. There are no perennials this year due to threat of jumping worms.

Thank you for supporting the North Oaks Garden Club, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All proceeds are used directly to beautify and support our community. The website to view the plant options and order form can be found [HERE](#).

SAFETY

Introducing Ramsey County Sheriffs Officer

Join us in welcoming Officer Pam Lee from the Ramsey County Sherriff's office who will be filling while Officer Burrell is on medical leave. Give her a wave to welcome her as she patrols our community. As always, call 911 directly to report any suspicious activity.

NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR Rainfall Monitoring network seeks volunteer members

Reports provide important data about rainfall amounts, climate trends

The State Climatology Office is looking for volunteer rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and submit reports online.

This is a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online.

Volunteers must purchase or provide a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS) and have internet access to submit reports.

To sign up or for more information, visit CoCoRaHS.org or contact Luigi Romolo at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us. The website includes lesson plans for STEM students and instructional videos for all participants.

Ramsey County Recycling – no longer accepting dirt or sod

Due to the threat of jumping worms, Ramsey County will no longer accept dirt or sod at any of their yard waste sites. Refer to their A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide for other disposal options.

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/.../rec.../a-z-disposal-guide...> or call 651-633-EASY (3279).

Jumping worms are invasive and destructive worms that can quickly degrade soils, kill garden plants and damage lawns. They look similar to nightcrawlers and other earthworms except that they wiggle intensely when disturbed and can appear to be jumping. If your soil appears granular like coffee grounds, you likely have jumping worms and should report the invasive species.

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify.../jumping-worms...>

Learn more about jumping worms in Ramsey County <https://www.ramseycounty.us/.../yard-waste/jumping-worms>

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. 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.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Road Restrictions are in Effect

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- Minutes of 2.17.2022 NRC meeting, and 3.3.2022 NRC meeting have been approved and posted on the [City website](#).
- Discussion of VLAWMO's draft of long range high level project planning ([page 14 of the NRC packet](#)). VLAWMO is looking for feedback at this point and will move into identifying priorities and action steps in the summer.
- Discussion of adjusting verbiage for Climate Action Resolution to be North Oaks specific as to what has been done, and opportunities our Community has to be more intentional in this area.
- Commission approved purchase of pesticide education materials to include in new resident packets. The materials should help inform residents how pesticides put on their ground impacts the environment.
- Discussed status of deer management program and the importance of quantifying where North Oaks stands in regards to the target 11-15 deer per square mile guideline that our environment can

naturally support. Education materials will be developed to inform residents of City Council's plan as we enter the Fall 2022 season.

- Tick Task force will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. This coincides with the start of tick season. *See below for more detail.

The full agenda packet and link to watch the NRC meeting can be found [here](#).

Dogs on Leash

There have increasing reports of pets unleashed in public areas throughout our community. Just a reminder per City Ordinance 90.15 – 90.26, pets must be under your direct control at all times when on public property. Per NOHOA rules, pets MUST be leashed at all times on NOHOA owned trails and community spaces.

As a private community, residents own to the center of the roads and have shared access to North Oaks trails through the homeowner's association membership. It is important that residents respect others concern for their own safety, and their right to peacefully use our shared roads and trails without being approached by unleashed dogs. Residents have varying level of comfort with strange pets, with concern on how their own pets will react to unleashed animals.

Here's to warmer weather and respectfully together enjoying our great outdoors!

Coyotes -Breeding season – Use Caution

We have received our first report of a coyote encounter. As we enter the spring, Coyotes may become more active with the mating season beginning in January and lasting through February. Five to seven pups are typically born in April and may be protective of their young. Please keep a careful watch on your pets when they are outside and as always, please keep your pets leashed on trails. If Coyotes do encroach your yard, make them feel as unwelcome as possible using hazing techniques such as loud noises, and yelling to encourage them to move on.

Additional information on coexisting with our coyotes and a full presentation on this topic from March 2019 and January 2020 with featured speakers from DNR, Ramsey County Sherriff Animal control and U of M can be viewed on the [City website](#) or by typing "Coexisting with Coyotes" into the search bar. This includes DNR links describing their habits and dealing with Urban Coyotes.

Ramsey County Recycling Guide

The Ramsey County Recycling Guide will hit resident mailboxes this week. Click [here](#) for the online version.

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:

Resilient Yards: Blue Thumb Workshop

Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (online)

Content: A workshop covering lawncare, planting choices, and drainage strategies that are geared towards resiliency.

Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

Pollinator Plantings

Tuesday, April 5th 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Virtual workshop)

Content: A special workshop to help make your yard a haven for bees, butterflies and other pollinators from lawns to native perennials. There are two parts to the workshop – videos to watch at your convenience, and then a workshop presentation by a landscape design expert to elaborate further and answer questions.

Click [HERE](#) for complete details and to register.

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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 CTV, 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. Contact the City if you would like to view a recording of a past NRC Meeting.

- **City Council Special Meeting** – Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m. * zoom only
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, April 11th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, April 28th at 7 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.

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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—4/8/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from Special City Council Meeting 4/5/2022

Summary of the special meeting of the City Council to discuss ongoing litigation with the North Oaks:

- Council voted to approve the final plan/plat for Gate Hill subdivision as submitted.
- Council voted to approve the final plan/plat for the Red Forest Way South Phase 1 subdivision as submitted.

To view the open session portion of the meeting, click [HERE](#).

Notice of Public Hearings – Thursday, April 28th

There will be public hearings on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. as part of the regular Planning Commission meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hold 2 public hearings to consider:

- an amendment to maps and verbiage for the Charley Lake Townhomes subdivision in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to State Statute 462.355 ADOPT, AMEND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; INTERIM ORDINANCE and potential Planning Commission action regarding recommendation to the City Council of approval or denial of the application.
- a zoning amendment and change to maps and verbiage for the North Oaks Homeowners' Association in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to State Statute 462.355 ADOPT, AMEND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; INTERIM ORDINANCE and City Code § 151.079 PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS, AMENDMENTS, VARIANCES, AND APPEALS and potential Planning Commission action regarding recommendation to the City Council of approval or denial of the application.

The [full meeting notice](#) with links for participation will be posted in the Shoreview Press, at the City Office, as well as on the City Facebook page and on the meeting entry on the website calendar.

COMMUNITY

Brush Pickup Day Coming – mid/late May

The City and NOHOA will once again co-hosting a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day will be mid/late May. Stay tuned for the exact date, pricing, and link to register in the next few weeks.

Annual Recycling Event – Save the Date: June 25th

Spring cleaning and have items that can't be donated? The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 4th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 25th 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. A complete list of items will be available as we get closer to the event. There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE.

Keep an eye out for details in the coming weeks. For questions, please contact the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750.

Locking Mailbox – Placing order next week

We are placing an order next week for locking mailboxes. Due to an unavoidable increase in materials and shipping costs, the rate of mailboxes has gone up through our mailbox provider. For 2022, the Package Master size will be \$192, Mail Manager is \$99, and the newspaper holder \$53. While this is a sizable increase from last year, it is still less than or equal to the next cheapest option (package master is currently \$229 on Amazon, and other websites for \$280).

If you wish to order through the City, please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. You can [pay online](#) through our website, or stop in during office hours. Contact the City office with any questions 651-792- 7750.

SAFETY

Important Safety Precautions

There was an auto theft from a driveway in North Oaks this week during mid-day hours. Please be sure to keep garage doors closed, and cars locked even during the day while you are home.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Earth Day Activity: Rapp Farm Clean-Up!

Help your neighbors celebrate Earth day by participating in a clean-up weekend event! There's no set time for the activity - just grab a trash bag and clean up trash/refuse near your home or in common areas of Rapp Farm. Trash bags will be available on the front porch of 3 Monarch Court, along with some gloves to help with cleanup. If there are large items, please call, text, or email Andrew Hawkins and he will arrange pickup. Sign up for the event on the Rapp Farm Facebook page for reminders, thank you email and to demonstrate your commitment to our Rapp Farm Clean-Up event!

Event Timing: April 22, 23, 24 2022 (Earth Day Weekend)

Event Address: Rapp Farm neighborhood of North Oaks

Contact us at +1.626.394.9861 or ahawkins@northoaksmn.gov

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the March 31, 2022 meeting include:

- Minutes from February 24th and March 3rd approved and posted to [City website](#).
- Planning Commissioners heard from Lake Johanna Fire Department Deputy Chief about options for the city to add four emergency sirens. North Oaks is currently the only city in Ramsey County that does not have emergency sirens, and some residents have expressed concern that they are not able to hear sirens from neighboring communities. Commissioners also heard from some residents on their objections to adding sirens. No actions were taken at this time. City Administrator Kress will be exploring the issue further with city staff and will present a more detailed analysis at the next meeting in April.
- An issue of code interpretation on whether Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limits apply to properties under 4,000 square feet was discussed. Commissioners agreed with City Staff's interpretation that the current city code indicates that FAR limitations do not apply for properties under 4,000 square feet.
- Planning Commissioners reviewed a draft of proposed interpretive guidelines for height-based CUPs. It was agreed that these guidelines would best be built into city code. City staff will continue to work on the guidelines and will bring them back for further discussion and possible adoption into city code at a later date.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

Deadline for Garden Club Plant presale – April 8th

The 2022 Plant Sale for the North Oaks Garden Club will be pre-order only. All orders are **due before April 8th** and plants ordered will be delivered on two separate dates. Hanging Baskets will be delivered before Mother's Day, and should be picked up on Thursday, May 5th between 3-6 pm at the Hill Farm, 35 Hill Farm Circle, North Oaks. All Herbs, Vegetables and Annuals ordered should be picked up on Thursday, May 12th between 3-7 pm at the Hill Farm. All orders will be arranged alphabetically for ease of pickup. There are no perennials this year due to threat of jumping worms.

Thank you for supporting the North Oaks Garden Club, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All proceeds are used directly to beautify and support our community. The website to view the plant options and order form can be found [HERE](#).

Introducing Ramsey County Sheriffs Officer

Join us in welcoming Officer Pam Lee from the Ramsey County Sherriff's office who will be filling while Officer Burrell is on medical leave. Give her a wave to welcome her as she patrols our community. As always, call 911 directly to report any suspicious activity.

DNR Rainfall Monitoring network seeks volunteer members

Reports provide important data about rainfall amounts, climate trends

The State Climatology Office is looking for volunteer rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and submit reports online.

This is a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online.

Volunteers must purchase or provide a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS) and have internet access to submit reports.

To sign up or for more information, visit CoCoRaHS.org or contact Luigi Romolo at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us. The website includes lesson plans for STEM students and instructional videos for all participants.

Ramsey County Recycling – no longer accepting dirt or sod

Due to the threat of jumping worms, Ramsey County will no longer accept dirt or sod at any of their yard waste sites. Refer to their A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide for other disposal options. <https://www.ramseycounty.us/.../rec.../a-z-disposal-guide...> or call 651-633-EASY (3279).

Jumping worms are invasive and destructive worms that can quickly degrade soils, kill garden plants and damage lawns. They look similar to nightcrawlers and other earthworms except that they wiggle intensely when disturbed and can appear to be jumping. If your soil appears granular like coffee grounds, you likely have jumping worms and should report the invasive species.

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify.../jumping-worms...>

Learn more about jumping worms in Ramsey County <https://www.ramseycounty.us/.../yard-waste/jumping-worms>

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. 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.

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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.

- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, April 11th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing** – Thursday, April 28th at 7 p.m.

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

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City of North Oaks
City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/15/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the Natural Resources Commission Meeting 4/11/2022

- Commissioners heard from City Septic Inspector Brian Humpal on current septic maintenance standards in the city and in other communities throughout the state.
- City Forester Mark Rehder gave a presentation on biocontrol methods being used to combat Emerald Ash Borer throughout the state.

- Commissioners discussed ideas for supporting Earth Day clean up events in the community.
- Commissioners received an update on a draft wetland ordinance that is meant to clarify the existing standards within the city code.

The full agenda packet and link to watch the NRC meeting can be found [here](#).

Highlights from the City Council Meeting 4/14/2022

- Approved Council meeting minutes from January – March 2022 meetings. Minutes have been posted to the city website.
- Renewed contract with Animal Humane Society
- Continued discussion on City Hall office lease renewal options
- Approved Phase 2 of the Pesticide Education Plan presented by the Natural Resource Commission. [Click here](#) to view the full plan to reduce pesticide use within our community.
- Plan was discussed to fill a Planning Commissioner vacancy and keep the application open throughout the year. Keep an eye out for a link to apply.
- A workshop will be held to discuss possible use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) government funds.
- Council approved Conditional Use permit for new home at 14 Cherrywood Circle for Garage space over 1,500 sq. ft, and height in excess of 35 feet.

You can view the full meeting [HERE](#).

Public Hearing on NOHOA zoning request postponed

Due to an error at Shoreview Press publications, the notice of Public Hearing for the NOHOA request to change the zoning on 3 parcels from RSL zoning to Rec zoning, and 1 from RSL to light industrial was not published. The Public Hearing on this topic will be need to be shifted to the May 26, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.

The public hearing on the Charley Lake Townhome request to move to Shoreview water will take place at the April 28th Planning Commission meeting as scheduled.

COMMUNITY

Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 26th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 26th, 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 \$170, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

All brush must be piled at the edge of the street with the butt ends of the brush pointing in the same direction. Please do not pile brush directly under power lines as that limits the equipment that can be used to make the pickup. Woodland Restorations 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 24th**. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

SAFETY

Phishing scams via email are becoming more prevalent, using names of people you know to lure you into opening emails and attachments. Be wary – when in doubt, call to be sure it is legitimate.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Earth Day Events

The Natural Resource Commission invites you to celebrate Earth day by participating in a neighborhood cleanup to pick up garbage that has accumulated over the winter. Gather with your neighbors on April 23 or 24 for a rousing rubbish collection. See who can complete the trash treasure hunt first of finding: a mask, a beverage container, a newspaper, a plastic bag, and a remnant of a driveway reflector. The winner in each neighborhood gets bragging rights for a year as the waste wizard. Submit photos of your neighborhood flotsam & jetsam jamboree using this [google form](#) or SDunn@northoaksmn.gov. We'll post photos.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control – Working in Area

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District has just begun their season, so you may see their trucks, helicopters, or staff with identifiable “Mosquito Control” apparel in neighborhoods and parks.

At times MMCD employees may need to cross private property for access to check and treat areas for mosquito larvae. MMCD management asks the community to please stay several feet away from field staff and ensure children and pets are kept at a distance. If you have questions about mosquito control activities or concerns about an employee, please call the MMCD front desk at (651) 645-9149 or visit MMCD.org.

Some of the activities that MMCD may be doing in our community 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.

The control materials and methods used by MMCD are regularly tested for safety and only applied when surveillance indicates they would be effective. They are designed specifically to target mosquito larvae or adults with minimal impacts on non-target insects. The control materials are not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. For a complete list of control materials used, please visit MMCD.org.

VLAWMO Workshops

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization is hosting a Cost-Share Open house at Vadnais Heights City Hall will be April 28th at 6:00 p.m. Get a glimpse of the VLAWMO landscape cost-share program and see examples of successful projects. How were these projects designed and built, and how are they maintained? What do the property owners say and recommend about them? We'll cover this

plus provide an introduction on how to apply for a grant and go about the process. To register: [VLAWMO :: Cost-share Open House](#)

There will also be a Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop on May 5th at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. This workshop will cover lawncare, planting choices, and drainage strategies that are geared towards resiliency. The workshop will be conducted online from the comfort of your home. To register, click: [VLAWMO :: Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop](#)

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Annual Recycling Event – Save the Date: June 25th

Spring cleaning and have items that can't be donated? The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 4th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 25th 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. A complete list of items will be available as we get closer to the event. There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE.

Keep an eye out for details in the coming weeks. For questions, please contact the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750.

Locking Mailbox – Order has been placed

We have placed the spring order for locking mailboxes. There will be a few extras available for purchase once the order arrives. Due to an unavoidable increase in materials and shipping costs, the rate of mailboxes has gone up through our mailbox provider. For 2022, the Package Master size will be \$192, Mail Manager is \$99, and the newspaper holder \$53.

If you wish to purchase one of the extra mailboxes through the City, please complete the [mailbox order form](#) and email it into the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. You can [pay online](#) through our website, or stop in during office hours. Contact the City office with any questions 651-792- 7750.

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Help your neighbors celebrate Earth day by participating in a clean-up weekend event! There's no set time for the activity - just grab a trash bag and clean up trash/refuse near your home or in common areas of Rapp Farm. Trash bags will be available on the front porch of 3 Monarch Court, along with some gloves to help with cleanup. If there are large items, please call, text, or email Andrew Hawkins and he will arrange pickup. Sign up for the event on the Rapp Farm Facebook page for reminders, thank you email and to demonstrate your commitment to our Rapp Farm Clean-Up event!

Event Timing: April 22, 23, 24 2022 (Earth Day Weekend)
Event Address: Rapp Farm neighborhood of North Oaks
Contact us at +1.626.394.9861 or ahawkins@northoaksmn.gov

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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 / Public Hearing** – Thursday, April 28th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Monday, May 9th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Workshop / Meeting** – Thursday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

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City of North Oaks
City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—4/22/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council meeting – Tuesday, April 26th

There will be a special meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, April 26th, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of:

- Closed session with its attorneys under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss the pending litigation of North Oaks Company, LLC, V. City of North Oaks, venued in Ramsey County, Court File No. 62-CV-21-5617.
- Open session to discuss the pending litigation of North Oaks Company, LLC, V. City of North Oaks, venued in Ramsey County, Court File No. 62-CV-21-5617, including the potential amendment of Resolutions 1446 and 1447, approving the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Gate Hill and the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Red Forest Way-South Phase One
- Discussion and possible action on amending annual appointment resolution to add member for Lake Johanna Fire Department, Shoreview and Arden Hills Joint Powers Agreement

View the [Special meeting notices](#) for zoom links for the OPEN session portion of the meeting, or refer to the meeting on the [City calendar](#).

Protect North Oaks - Entering High Risk Oak Wilt Season

Please don't prune oak trees from April – July as we have entered the season of high risk for oak wilt, a deadly disease that affects all species of oaks found in Minnesota. Click [HERE](#) for more information about oak wilt, how it spreads and a link to the risk current status. This 3-minute [Oak Wilt video](#) has been recommended by the Minnesota DNR to help educate communities on this important topic. Let's all do our part to preserve the beautiful oak trees throughout our community.

COMMUNITY

It's Earth Day weekend! Consider participating in your own way by one of the following:

Earth Day – Neighborhood Cleanup

The Natural Resource Commission invites you to celebrate Earth day by participating in a neighborhood cleanup to pick up garbage that has accumulated over the winter. Gather with your neighbors on April 23 or 24 for a rousing rubbish collection. See who can complete the trash treasure hunt first of finding:

a mask, a beverage container, a newspaper, a plastic bag, and a remnant of a driveway reflector. The winner in each neighborhood gets bragging rights for a year as the waste wizard. Submit photos of your neighborhood flotsam & jetsam jamboree using this [google form](#) or SDunn@northoaksmn.gov. We'll post photos.

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Event Timing: April 22, 23, 24 2022 (Earth Day Weekend)

Event Address: Rapp Farm neighborhood of North Oaks

Contact us at +1.626.394.9861 or ahawkins@northoaksmn.gov

Other Earth Day ideas:

- Plant a tree
- Start a pollinator or rain garden
- Take gloves & a garbage bag on your walk to pick up stray items
- Leave the car home and take a bike
- Explore our beautiful trails
- Switch to energy saving lightbulbs
- Keep reusable shopping bags in your car
- Turn off items that use electric when not in use
- Use recyclable water bottles

NATURAL RESOURCES

Prevent the Spread of Avian Flu

With Avian Flu circulating among Minnesota's wild bird populations, the University of Minnesota Raptor Center recommends that residents take steps to help prevent the spread:

- Remove backyard bird feeders and stop filling bird baths to prevent birds from congregating in common areas.
- Clean and sanitize bird feeders and wait to put them back out until flu numbers go down.
- Contact the [Raptor Center](#) or the [Wildlife Rehabilitation Center](#) in Roseville if you find ill or dead birds in the community.

Experts at the Raptor Center hope that numbers will start to go down by mid-June as the weather starts to warm up and as birds start to disperse. For updates, check out the [Raptor Center Facebook Page](#).

Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 26th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 26th, 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 \$170, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush. Woodland Restorations 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 24th**. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Highlights from the Natural Resources Commission Meeting 4/11/2022

- Commissioners heard from City Septic Inspector Brian Humpal on current septic maintenance standards in the City and in other communities throughout the state.
- City Forester Mark Rehder gave a presentation on biocontrol methods being used to combat Emerald Ash Borer throughout the state.
- Commissioners discussed ideas for supporting Earth Day clean up events in the community.
- Commissioners received an update on a draft wetland ordinance that is meant to clarify the existing standards within the City code.

The full agenda packet and link to watch the NRC meeting can be found [here](#).

Highlights from the City Council Meeting 4/14/2022

- Approved Council meeting minutes from January – March 2022 meetings. Minutes have been posted to the City website.
- Renewed contract with Animal Humane Society
- Continued discussion on City Hall office lease renewal options
- Approved Phase 2 of the Pesticide Education Plan presented by the Natural Resource Commission. [Click here](#) to view the full plan to reduce pesticide use within our community.
- Plan was discussed to fill a Planning Commissioner vacancy. Keep an eye out for a link to apply.
- A workshop will be held to discuss possible use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) government funds.
- Council approved Conditional Use permit for new home at 14 Cherrywood Circle for Garage space over 1,500 sq. ft, and height in excess of 35 feet.

You can view the full meeting [HERE](#).

Public Hearing on NOHOA zoning request postponed

Due to an error at Shoreview Press publications, the notice of Public Hearing for the NOHOA request to change the zoning on 3 parcels from RSL zoning to Rec zoning, and 1 from RSL to light industrial was not published. The Public Hearing on this topic will need to be shifted to the May 26, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.

The public hearing on the Charley Lake Townhome request to move to Shoreview water will take place at the April 28th Planning Commission meeting as scheduled.

Annual Recycling Event – Save the Date: June 25th

Spring cleaning and have items that can't be donated? The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 4th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 25th 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. A complete list of items will be available as we get closer to the event. There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE.

Keep an eye out for details in the coming weeks. For questions, please contact the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750.

Phishing Scams

Phishing scams via email are becoming more prevalent, using names of people you know to lure you into opening emails and attachments. Be wary – when in doubt, call to be sure it is legitimate.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control – Working in Area

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District has just begun their season, so you may see their trucks, helicopters, or staff with identifiable “Mosquito Control” apparel in neighborhoods and parks.

At times MMCD employees may need to cross private property for access to check and treat areas for mosquito larvae. MMCD management asks the community to please stay several feet away from field staff and ensure children and pets are kept at a distance. If you have questions about mosquito control activities or concerns about an employee, please call the MMCD front desk at (651) 645-9149 or visit MMCD.org.

Some of the activities that MMCD may be doing in our community 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.

The control materials and methods used by MMCD are regularly tested for safety and only applied when surveillance indicates they would be effective. They are designed specifically to target mosquito larvae or adults with minimal impacts on non-target insects. The control materials are not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. For a complete list of control materials used, please visit MMCD.org.

VLAWMO Workshops

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization is hosting a Cost-Share Open house at Vadnais Heights City Hall will be April 28th at 6:00 p.m. Get a glimpse of the VLAWMO landscape cost-share program and see examples of successful projects. How were these projects designed and built, and how are they maintained? What do the property owners say and recommend about them? We'll cover this plus provide an introduction on how to apply for a grant and go about the process. To register: [VLAWMO :: Cost-share Open House](#)

There will also be a Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop on May 5th at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. This workshop will cover lawncare, planting choices, and drainage strategies that are geared towards resiliency. The

workshop will be conducted online from the comfort of your home. To register, click: [VLAWMO :: Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop](#)

Historical City Eblast Communications

Just a reminder that all former City of North Oaks Eblasts can be accessed at any time on the City Website under City Hall [Weekly Town News](#).

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 CTV, 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** – Tuesday, April 26th at 12:30 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing** – Thursday, April 28th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Monday, May 9th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Workshop / Meeting** – Thursday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. and 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—4/22/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the Special City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 26th

- City Council approved amendments of Resolutions 1446 and 1447 approving the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Gate Hill and the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Red Forest Way-South Phase One. The amendments to the resolutions included adjustments to ensure there was no ambiguity in language.
- City Council appointed Councilor Tom Watson as a board member for Lake Johanna Fire Department, Shoreview and Arden Hills Joint Powers Agreement.

The link to watch the open session portion of the meeting can be found [HERE](#).

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- Commissioners recommended approving a change to the verbiage in the Comprehensive Plan to include Charley Lake Townhomes as an area having water to be served by the City of Shoreview. The recommendation will be presented to the City Council for final approval on Thursday, May 12th.

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

Planning Commission Opening – Accepting applications

The City of North Oaks is now accepting applications to fill an opening on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the North Oaks City Council and meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. Refer to the [Boards, Commissions Appointment Policy and Application form](#) for additional information.

Residents interested in serving on the Commission should 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. Call City Hall at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Thank you to Commissioner Anne Conroy for her service on the Planning Commission and we wish her well in her relocation from North Oaks.

Road Restrictions to be Lifted Monday 5.2.2022

The City has received notice from the Department of Transportation that road restrictions will be lifted beginning **12:01 a.m. on Monday, May 2nd, 2022.**

Until that time, **3 ton per axle restriction** will be in effect. Overweight permit exceptions can only be granted through the North Oaks Homeowners association, 651-792-7765.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Participate in No Mow May

No Mow May is a campaign to preserve and protect our bees and other pollinators during this critical spring season, by waiting to clean and mow our lawns to give them more time to emerge from winter hibernation.

Mowing your lawn less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife. In addition to benefiting pollinators, reducing mowing frequency will save water, help your lawn become more resilient to drought, and reduce emissions from gas-powered lawn equipment that often lacks the emission reduction equipment found on larger engines. Consider participating by holding off on mowing for a while longer.

Spring burning restrictions begin in Minnesota

Press release from MN Department of Natural Resources 4/28/2022

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is restricting open burning in Ramsey County and many others throughout the state, due to increased wildfire risk from warm temperatures and dry conditions.

The DNR will not issue permits for open burning of **brush or yard waste** in these counties until restrictions are lifted.

“Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before grass greens up,” said Allissa Reynolds, DNR wildfire prevention supervisor. “Spring burning restrictions help to reduce the number of wildfires, especially those caused by debris burning.”

Reynolds encourages residents to use alternatives to burning to dispose of yard waste, such as composting, chipping, or taking brush to a collection site. For more information, visit the [wildfire prevention page of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/Wildfire/Prevention) (mndnr.gov/Wildfire/Prevention).

People cause 90% of wildfires in Minnesota. If a debris fire rekindles or escapes, the person who set it is liable for any damage caused, as well as for wildfire suppression costs.

Burning restrictions will be adjusted as conditions change. 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).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Prevent the Spread of Avian Flu

With Avian Flu circulating among Minnesota’s wild bird populations, the University of Minnesota Raptor Center recommends that residents take steps to help prevent the spread:

- Remove backyard bird feeders and stop filling bird baths to prevent birds from congregating in common areas.
- Clean and sanitize bird feeders and wait to put them back out until flu numbers go down.
- Contact the [Raptor Center](#) or the [Wildlife Rehabilitation Center](#) in Roseville if you find ill or dead birds in the community.

Experts at the Raptor Center hope that numbers will start to go down by mid-June as the weather starts to warm up and as birds start to disperse. For updates, check out the [Raptor Center Facebook Page](#).

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The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 26th, 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 \$170, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush. Woodland Restorations will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions.

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Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization is hosting a Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop on May 5th at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. This workshop will cover lawncare, planting choices, and drainage strategies that are geared towards resiliency. The workshop will be conducted online from the comfort of your home. To register, click: [VLAWMO :: Blue Thumb: Resilient Yards Workshop](#)

Protect North Oaks - Entering High Risk Oak Wilt Season

Please don't prune oak trees from April – July as we have entered the season of high risk for oak wilt, a deadly disease that affects all species of oaks found in Minnesota. Click [HERE](#) for more information about oak wilt, how it spreads and a link to the risk current status. This 3-minute [Oak Wilt video](#) has been recommended by the Minnesota DNR to help educate communities on this important topic. Let's all do our part to preserve the beautiful oak trees throughout our community.

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UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Monday, May 9th at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Workshop / Meeting** – Thursday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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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—5/6/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Special City Council / Planning Commission Training Session

There will be a special joint session of the City Council and Planning Commission on Thursday, May 12th, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Planning Commission will be joining the City Council at their regularly scheduled workshop. The purpose is to conduct a training session with the City Council and Planning Commission, provided by City staff and consultants.

Refer to the [special meeting notice](#) for full details.

Road Restrictions have been Lifted effective Monday 5.2.2022

The City has received notice from the Department of Transportation that road restrictions have been lifted. This includes all areas of North Oaks.

Animal Control – new impound location for strays/lost pets

Animal control services are focused on domestic animal issues and are provided by the Sheriff's Office to the seven contract communities of Arden Hills, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township. Among the most frequent calls are reports of dogs running loose in the neighborhood.

Effective Sunday, May 1, 2022, all domestic animals received/impounded by Animal Control (in the contract communities) will be brought to the Animal Humane Society, located at 9785 Hudson Road, in Woodbury, MN. 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>. Shelter pick-up hours are by appointment only. Call 952-435-7738.

Impound animals are kept for five business days, if they're not claimed they may become available for adoption. Owners claiming their pets will need to show photo identification; proof of ownership; and bring payment for fees.

Lost pets should be reported to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 651-767-0640 and can be posted on the [RCSO Facebook page](#). You can also find resources for lost and found pets at [Lost and found pet resources | Animal Humane Society](#).

More information on Animal Control Services is available on the [Ramsey County Sheriff's Office website](#).

SAFETY

CATGUARD Catalytic Converter Marking Pilot Program – Ramsey County Sherriffs Office

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Minnesota Commerce Fraud Bureau in a NEW Pilot Program, which includes a self-install marking kit of catalytic converters.

The labels are installed by sticking the label onto a - cool to the touch - catalytic converter. A fluid is then painted onto the label, which, once a vehicle is started, causes the unique number to be etched into the metal. Once registered, the unique number allows law enforcement to trace a converter back to a specific vehicle if a converter were to be stolen and later recovered. The law requires the labels be

installed at no cost to vehicle owners. Businesses cannot charge for the installation of a program label, but they can require another service, e.g., oil change, be performed to install a label.

The marking kits are free and available to residents of Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township.

Residents can come to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Patrol Station, 1411 Paul Kirkwold Dr. Arden Hills, starting **Monday May 9th from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday**. The Crime Prevention Unit will have someone in the lobby to assist you in starting the registration process. You will need to bring ID, vehicle's insurance card or VIN and plate number for your vehicle. **Supplies are limited as this is a pilot project.**

The marking kits are **only for these vehicles** most at-risk for catalytic converter theft:

Chevrolet Express
Ford Econoline
Ford F250
Honda Accord
Honda CRV
Honda Element
Honda Odyssey
Hyundai Santa Fe
Hyundai Tucson
Kia Sportage
Mitsubishi Eclipse
Mitsubishi Lancer
Mitsubishi Outlander
Toyota Prius
Toyota Tundra

If your vehicle is on this list consider participating in this pilot program. If your vehicle is not on the list an alternative to the labels is to engrave your converter with the VIN, a partial VIN (the last 8), or even the license plate number. It is recommended to apply some bright colored high-temperature paint with the engraving. Just painting without adding identification marks does not help with the issue of traceability. Marking a catalytic converter will not prevent theft on its own. Follow safe practices and report thefts. More information about the CATGUARD Label Solution can be found at: [Catalytic Converter Pilot / Minnesota.gov \(mn.gov\)](#) and [Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention - Vehicle Road Safety Solutions](#)

COMMUNITY

Save the Date – Night to Unite: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mark your calendars and connect 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/NTU2022>

Garden Sale Pickup

For those that have preordered plants as part of the North Oaks Garden Club annual sale, there are two pick up dates. Hanging baskets were to be picked up on Thursday, May 5th between 3-6 p.m. at the Hill Farm. All herbs, vegetables and annuals should be picked up on Thursday, May 12th between 3 – 7 p.m. at the Hill Farm, 35 Hill Farm Circle, North Oaks. Your orders will be sorted and all orders will be arranged alphabetically for ease of pickup.

Garden sale is Pre-order ONLY, there is no live sale this year. Thank you for supporting the North Oaks Garden Club, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All proceeds are used directly to beautify and support our community.

Women's Guild II – Rummage Sale Drop off

The 2022 spring donation drop-off will be Saturday, May 14, 9 am to 2 pm at the North Oaks West Recreation Center, 14 W. Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks (corner of West Pleasant Lake Road & Red Barn Road).

FURNITURE DONATIONS are greatly appreciated. Please call Jennifer Martini, 651-231-5825 **NO LATER THAN MAY 8** to schedule a PICK-UP ON MAY 14. Pick-up of furniture only (just in North Oaks) in good condition.

Covid Medications Available

Medication is available for Minnesotans who test positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk of getting very sick because of older age or underlying health conditions. These medications, also called treatments, can help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. If you are at high risk and test positive, it is important to get medication right away to prevent serious illness. Visit [State of Minnesota: Treatments](#) for more information on:

- Antiviral medications
- Monoclonal antibody therapy
- Cost and insurance
- Who should get COVID-19 medication
- Managing mild COVID-19 illness
- When to seek emergency medical care

COVID-19 medications are not a substitute for prevention. It is still recommended that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information, including updated fact sheets, visit [MDH: COVID-19 Medication Options](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Helicopter Treatments have begun

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District was able to begin conducting larval control treatments by helicopter this week. Throughout the summer, helicopters will treat wetlands where technicians have found high numbers of mosquito larvae that impact humans to prevent them from becoming biting adult mosquitoes.

Today - Friday, May 6 - helicopters are active in all seven counties in the metro. A full list of cities with planned helicopter activity is published on their website by 8:00AM: [MMCD Planned Helicopter Activity](#) Helicopters apply a dry granule or pellet containing a natural soil bacterium or a mosquito growth regulator to wetlands and large areas of standing water to prevent larval mosquitoes from becoming biting adults. These are bio-rational control materials which specifically target mosquito larvae and pose

no risk to human or animal health. MMCD helicopters DO NOT apply liquid control materials that target adult mosquitoes. Learn more about our [mosquito control program](#).

Celebrate Arbor Month at Mary Hill Park – Saturday, May 14th

North Oaks residents are invited to join NOHOA at Mary Hill Park on Saturday, May 14 between 10:00 and noon to celebrate Arbor Month! This family-friendly event will feature information about trees, tree care, tree identification, buckthorn and other invasive species management, and kid-friendly activities. NOHOA Natural Environment Stewardship Team (NEST) members will share information about environmental projects, and Barb Spears, NOHOA Natural Environment Consultant and Justin Townsend, Ramsey County Environmental Resources Specialist will be on-hand to answer questions.

ABOUT NEST: NEST conducts planning and implementation activities that preserve, protect, maintain, restore, or enhance the natural environment of NOHOA properties using methods that reflect best practices and sustainability.

For more information, contact NOHOA at 651-792-7765 or nohoa@nohoa.org.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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- City Council approved amendments of Resolutions 1446 and 1447 approving the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Gate Hill and the Final Plans/Plat/Subdivision for Red Forest Way-South Phase One. The amendments to the resolutions included adjustments to ensure there was no ambiguity in language.
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Thank you to Commissioner Anne Conroy for her service on the Planning Commission and we wish her well in her relocation from North Oaks.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/13/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the Natural Resources Commission Meeting – Monday, May 9th

- Commissioners discussed the benefits of dark sky initiatives in our community to support wildlife and biological implications in our natural environment. Commission will look for opportunities to provide community awareness, education, recommendations to turn off outdoor lights between midnight and 4 a.m.
- Commission reviewed the revised Climate Action Resolution based on feedback to streamline to North Oaks relevant considerations. This will be revised further pending Council feedback.
- Tick Task force meetings have resumed and residents are encouraged to attend. The meetings and zoom links will be posted on the City website.
- Discussion of Emerald Ash Borer by the City Forester will take place at the June 13th NRC meeting. The full meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

Highlights from the Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting – Thursday, May 12th

- City Councilors and Planning Commissioners participated in a joint workshop with new City Planner Kendra Lindahl. Lindahl presented on planning basics, enabling statutes, roles and responsibilities, implementing the comprehensive plan and legal issues.

Highlights from the City Council Meeting – Thursday, May 12th

- Officer Pam Lee introduced herself to the Council. Lee has been filling in for Deputy Mike Burrell who is on leave. She has been serving the community for about a month.

- City Councilors heard a presentation on the annual City audit from Senior Audit Manager Justin Nilson representing Abdo Eick and Meyers.
- City Council authorized City Administrator Kress and Councilors Watson and Hara to complete negotiations to renew the office space lease for the City offices at 100 Village Center Drive.
- City Council approved an amendment to the annual appointment resolution to add the new City Planner Kendra Lindahl and new Planning Commissioner Marc Asch.
- Councilor Dujmovic introduced some ideas for traffic calming measures in the City. These measures were developed in consultation with Engineer John Morast and NOHOA. They will be discussed in further detail at the Monday, May 23rd Community Safety Forum (see entry in “Safety” section below for details about this upcoming event).

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

White Bear/Shoreview Water Sprinkling and Irrigation Restrictions

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.

White Bear Township allows irrigation for even numbered house addresses on even numbered calendar days from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Odd numbered house addresses may irrigate only on odd numbered calendar days from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Shoreview water restrictions are in effect from May 15th – September 1st 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.

For those on private wells, for most efficient watering 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.

SAFETY

Community Safety Forum – Monday, May 23, 6-8 p.m.

The City of North Oaks, along with the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office and NOHOA will participate in a Community Safety Forum on Monday, May 23rd from 6-8 p.m. The event will take place in the Community Room at City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 100. Topics will include:

- Safety and security trends in the County, Metro area and North Oaks
- An overview of the Contract Cities Policing model in which North Oaks participates
- How to be a hard target for burglary, car theft, theft from cars, carjacking, etc.
- Traffic Calming (i.e. the use of speed bumps, radar signs, speed recording strips, etc.)
- Exploration of cameras and associated signage in North Oaks to enhance deterrence and safety
- An open forum to hear from residents

All residents are invited to attend. For questions, contact the City Office at 651-792-7750.

COMMUNITY

Women's Guild II – Rummage Sale Drop off

The 2022 spring donation drop-off will be Saturday, May 14, 9 am to 2 pm at the North Oaks West Recreation Center, 14 W. Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks (corner of West Pleasant Lake Road & Red Barn Road).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Turtles Crossing

The turtles are out making their trek across roads from wetlands, ponds. Please use caution while driving, and use a shovel or other tool to move them in the same direction they were traveling. Click [here](#) for tips from the DNR on safely giving turtles a hand.

Carp Removal

In an effort to improve water quality and balance in the aquatic ecosystem, there is active carp removal project occurring in the channel near Deep Lake/Wilkinson Lake. This is an authorized activity in coordination with VLAWMO and NOHOA and includes temporary use of boats in this effort.

Celebrate Arbor Month at Mary Hill Park – Tomorrow! Saturday, May 14th

North Oaks residents are invited to join NOHOA at Mary Hill Park on Saturday, May 14 between 10:00 and noon to celebrate Arbor Month! **New: Free tree seedlings will be given out at this event!** This family-friendly event will feature information about trees, tree care, tree identification, buckthorn and other invasive species management, and kid-friendly activities. NOHOA Natural Environment Stewardship Team (NEST) members will share information about environmental projects, and Barb Spears, NOHOA Natural Environment Consultant and Justin Townsend, Ramsey County Environmental Resources Specialist will be on-hand to answer questions.

ABOUT NEST: NEST conducts planning and implementation activities that preserve, protect, maintain, restore, or enhance the natural environment of NOHOA properties using methods that reflect best practices and sustainability.

For more information, contact NOHOA at 651-792-7765 or nohoa@nohoa.org.

Tick Season

Reminder – to check for ticks after outdoor activity. They may be the size of a pen point this time of year, so look closely. Report any tick encounters [HERE](#) to help the tick task force track where problem areas may reside. Use this [helpful guide](#) on where ticks are likely to hide if they hitch-hike a ride back home with you, along with helpful prevention tips.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Save the Date – Night to Unite: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mark your calendars and connect 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/NTU2022>

Covid Medications Available

Medication is available for Minnesotans who test positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk of getting very sick because of older age or underlying health conditions. These medications, also called treatments, can help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. If you are at high risk and test positive, it is important to get medication right away to prevent serious illness. Visit [State of Minnesota: Treatments](#) for more information on:

- Antiviral medications, Monoclonal antibody therapy, Cost and insurance, Who should get COVID-19 medication, Managing mild COVID-19 illness, When to seek emergency medical care

COVID-19 medications are not a substitute for prevention. It is still recommended that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information, including updated fact sheets, visit [MDH: COVID-19 Medication Options](#).

Mosquito Control Helicopters

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District was able to begin conducting larval control treatments by helicopter. Throughout the summer, helicopters will treat wetlands where technicians have found high numbers of mosquito larvae that impact humans to prevent them from becoming biting adult mosquitoes. A full list of cities with planned helicopter activity is published on their website each day by 8:00AM: [MMCD Planned Helicopter Activity](#). Learn more about the mosquito control program [HERE](#).

Brush Pickup Day Coming – May 26th

The City and NOHOA are co-hosting and coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Thursday, May 26th, 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 \$170, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush. Woodland Restorations 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 24th**. Call at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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.

- **Community Safety Forum** – Monday, May 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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- **City Council** – Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission** – Monday, June 13 at 6:00 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—5/20/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Final Weekend to sign up - Brush Pickup Day Coming May 26th

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Mailboxes

If you recently placed an order for a locking mailbox through the City, remember to pick it up in the City office. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m.-Noon.

There are also a very limited number of extra mailboxes available for purchase for those who did not place an order. If you are interested, please contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov for availability and pricing.

Tick Task Force Meeting

Residents are invited to join the Tick Task Force at their next meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for zoom link to participate.

SAFETY

Road Safety

If there is an after-hours safety issue such as a tree fallen across a dark road, please call 911 to report the problem. Dispatch will alert our public works (i.e. Mel’s Services) to attend to the issue. Social

media is a nice courtesy to alert fellow neighbors of re-routing that may need to temporarily happen, however Facebook posts will not get help on the way. If incidents happen during office hours or on the trails, please contact NOHOA at 651-792-7765 and they will reach out to Mel's Services.

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- Traffic Calming (i.e. the use of speed bumps, radar signs, speed recording strips, etc.)
- Exploration of cameras and associated signage in North Oaks to enhance deterrence and safety
- An open forum to hear from residents

*A possible quorum of the City Council and other Committees/Commissions may be present.

All residents are invited to attend. For questions, contact the City Office at 651-792-7750.

Bear sightings – Take down Feeders

Please note that black bear sightings have been reported near Raccoon Road/East Pleasant Lake Road on the east side of North Oaks area this week. During these times of year, typically late spring and early fall, please take down bird feeders that may be a source of food for Bears, and consider putting out garbage by 7:00 a.m. on the morning of pick up day instead of the night prior.

Tips from DNR for 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.

This will remove easy food sources and encourage any bear to safely and naturally move along its path. Refer to the [tips from Ramsey County Sheriff's office](#) as well as [tips from the DNR on how we can do our part to minimize bear problems](#). . If there is a bear in your area, please call the City at 651-792-7750 with the location so residents in that area can be made aware.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Tick Season Reminder

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—5/27/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City office – Memorial Day

Did you know that each Memorial Day weekend 180,000 flags are placed at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery? Consider making a visit to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Country. City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Thank you to all Veterans!

Highlights from the Community Safety Forum – Monday, May 23rd

Thanks to the Ramsey County Sherriff's Office, Residents, NOHOA Board Members, City Council Members, North Oaks Company and others for participating in the Community Safety Forum on Monday. It was a very productive, engaging, respectful conversation and sharing of information between all parties. Highlights include:

- Ramsey County Sherriff's Office presented on Safety and Security Trends in County, Metro Area, an overview of the Contract Policing Model in which North Oaks participates, and how to be a hard target for burglary, car theft, theft from cars, carjacking.
- City Engineers presented on potential traffic calming measures for adoption in North Oaks
- NOHOA led a discussion exploring Entrance Cameras / License Plate Reading technology and associated signage
- Residents provided historical perspective, feedback, and additional ideas

Further discussion will take place in the future between all parties on these topics. Thank you all for your engagement and collaboration!

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the May 26, 2022 meeting include:

- Planning Commission approved a request by NOHOA to rezone two properties at the front entrance of North Oaks from Residential Single Family (RSL) to Recreation (R). They are recommending final approval by the City Council at the June meeting.
- The Commission tabled a request by NOHOA to rezone an adjacent parcel to the maintenance center property from Residential Multiple Family-Medium Density (RMM) to Limited Industrial (LI). Commissioners requested a visit of the site for more information before considering the issue again at their June meeting.
- Planning Commission denied a request to amend the Cities 2040 Comprehensive Plan maps and verbiage for a potential sewer extension to the lots located in the Sherwood Trail (Nord subdivision), specifically 15 and 17 North Deep Lake Road. Recommendation for denial will be presented to the City Council on June 9th for their final review.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

Construction Noise

With summer comes outdoor construction season. There are several new homes going in around our community. The City follows state guidelines for construction noise which allow construction from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. If you are building a home or have other exterior work being done, please remind your general contractor of these hours, to keep peace and be a good neighbor.

Fishing is prohibited

Reminder that fishing is not permitted by residents or guests of residents of the City of North Oaks, as per Minnesota Natural Resources Department Statute 6262.0500. Those caught fishing will be ticketed and are subject to paying a fine. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/6262.0500/>. Good news - there's 10,000 other lakes in Minnesota you can fish!

SAFETY

Bear Awareness / Safety Tips

As many residents are aware, there have been repeated sightings of a yearling bear in the community both on the east and west side of North Oaks. Bear are known to travel up to 15 miles each day in search of food and habitat. Please be sure to **take down any bird feeders**, remove any pet food which is being stored outside, bring in garbage cans, and clean grills to allow the bear to safely move along his way out of our community. Ninety-five percent of the sightings have been at bird feeders – please help out by taking them down to discourage repeat visits. You can report your bear sighting to the DNR [HERE](#).

If you do encounter a bear:

- Pick up small children and pets
- Face the bear directly and try to appear as large as possible
- Spread or wave your arms, ideally holding a sweater or coat
- Slowly back away and to the side (sideways is considered non-threatening movement).
- Talk in a calm, low and monotone voice.

Click [HERE](#) for educational information on black bear. Additional information can be found: [Bear Sightings - Awareness | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

COMMUNITY

Graduation Party Etiquette / Ordinance

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. City Ordinance § 71.12 PARKING. States: (A) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or a traffic-control device, no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle upon the traveled portion of any street in the City other than as closely as is practical to the righthand edge or curb of the street, and unless there is left available at least 10 feet of the width of the traveled portion of the street for the free movement of vehicular traffic. In no case shall the stopping, - 14 - North Oaks- Traffic Code 14 standing, or parking of a vehicle be allowed unless the street opposite the vehicle is clear of any other vehicle stopped, standing, or parked and, in no event, shall the stopping, standing, or parking be permitted for more than 10 hours, whether consecutive or not, on any day of the year or for more than 2 hours between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and

6:00 a.m. Please also note that homeowner's association regulations do not allow for signage in the community. Please instruct your guests with directions as signs are subject to removal by NOHOA.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Brush Pick Complete – Thank you!

Thanks to those who participated in the annual brush pick up day yesterday. Woodland restorations efficiently made stops at 30+ households to collect excess brush. Check out a [photo of brush pickup day](#) in action. If there are any follow up issues, contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—6/3/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Zoning Request Update

Following the Planning Commission discussion and community feedback to rezone the maintenance center property from Residential Multiple Family-Medium Density (RMM) to Limited Industrial (LI), NOHOA has formally withdrawn this request.

The NOHOA request to amend the zoning on 2 parcels near the main entrance from Residential Single-Family Low density (RSL) to Recreational (R) remain active and will be reviewed by Council next Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. This zoning change would allow Ramsey County to align the taxation rate with the parcels actual use.

Notice of Public Hearing

There will be a public hearing as part of the next Planning Commission meeting taking place on Thursday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to hold public hearings to consider:

- A Conditional Use Permit FOR A HOME LOCATED AT 16 SHERWOOD TRAIL IN EXCESS OF 35 FEET pursuant to City Code Section 151.050(D)(7) and potential Planning Commission action regarding recommendation to the City Council of approval or denial of the application.
- A Conditional Use Permit FOR A HOME LOCATED AT 38 CATBIRD LANE IN EXCESS OF 35 FEET pursuant to City Code Section 151.050(D)(7), and LAND RECLAMATION CUT/FILLING ACTIVITIES IN EXCESS OF 100 CUBIC YARDS pursuant to City Code Section 151.027, and potential Planning Commission action regarding recommendation to the City Council of approval or denial of the application.

Neighboring property owners will be notified of the request. The link to the full meeting packet will be available on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting.

SAFETY

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.

COMMUNITY

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 stay within their own yards for the safety of all. The full ordinance on domestic animals can be found under Ordinance 90.15 [HERE](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR advice for dealing with storm damaged trees

From 6/2/2022 DNR newsletter

Cleanup following a storm can be an overwhelming task for homeowners. If trees have been damaged, knowing which to save and which to remove can enhance people's safety and the survival of remaining trees, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

When addressing storm-damaged trees:

Do:

- Use caution when approaching damaged trees. If there are downed wires, stay clear and call 911.
- Carefully inspect standing trees for damage and address hazardous trees first. Hazardous trees have detached or loosely hanging branches and split or cracked trunks that can cause injury or damage to property.
- Remove trees if more than 50% of the trunk or live branches in the crown are damaged, the tree is unnaturally leaning or roots are damaged, or the tree could injure people or damage property. If you're unsure if a tree should be removed or can be saved, consult with a certified arborist.
- Assess the size of the tree and pruning job and play it safe. Consult a certified arborist on medium and large branches, or whole tree removal. *Consult City Forester or Arborist if any work needs to be done. Do NOT prune oak trees during this high-risk period.
- Use proper pruning techniques to remove small, broken limbs by cutting just outside the branch collar, but limit pruning to the minimum amount necessary to address safety risks. Too much pruning can weaken an already stressed tree – and many trees are stressed due to last year's drought.
- Make sure damaged trees get rain or are watered weekly to help them repair and rebuild. Be careful not to overwater, especially in heavy clay soils – the equivalent of 1 inch per week is ideal.
- Monitor damaged trees in upcoming years to make sure they don't decay or become a hazard.
- Don't be rushed by promises of bargains from inexperienced or unqualified tree service providers. Ask for references and proof of insurance.
- Repair a broken branch or fork of a tree with tape, wire, bolts or other wraps. The wound will not heal, and the split will invite decay and further weaken the tree. Cabling or bracing should only be performed by a certified arborist and inspected annually.
- Remove the tops of trees. This makes the tree more susceptible to insects and disease, and promotes the growth of new branches that are weakly attached.
- Apply paint or dressing to wounds, as these materials interfere with a tree's natural wound sealing process.
- Remove small, leaning trees. Trees less than 15 feet tall may survive if they are gently pulled back into place. Press out air spaces in the loosened soil. The tree can then be staked for up to a year.
- Fertilize stressed or damaged trees. Fertilizer can trigger rapid but weak growth and deplete the tree's energy reserves that are needed to recover from damage.

Information on tree care, proper pruning techniques and handling damaged trees is available on the [storm damage page of the DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/TreeCare/Maintenance/StormDamage-Prevention.html) (mndnr.gov/TreeCare/Maintenance/StormDamage-Prevention.html). For more extensive information on tree care, contact a DNR forester, City forester, certified arborist or county extension staff.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Highlights from the Community Safety Forum – Monday, May 23rd

Thanks to the Ramsey County Sherriff's Office, Residents, NOHOA Board Members, City Council Members, North Oaks Company and others for participating in the Community Safety Forum on Monday. It was a very productive, engaging, respectful conversation and sharing of information between all parties. Highlights include:

- Ramsey County Sherriff's Office presented on Safety and Security Trends in County, Metro Area, an overview of the Contract Policing Model in which North Oaks participates, and how to be a hard target for burglary, car theft, theft from cars, carjacking.
- City Engineers presented on potential traffic calming measures for adoption in North Oaks
- NOHOA led a discussion exploring Entrance Cameras / License Plate Reading technology and associated signage
- Residents provided historical perspective, feedback, and additional ideas

Further discussion will take place in the future between all parties on these topics. Thank you all for your engagement and collaboration!

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the May 26, 2022 meeting include:

- Planning Commission welcomed new member Marc Asch to his first meeting.
- Planning Commission approved a request by NOHOA to rezone two properties at the front entrance of North Oaks from Residential Single Family (RSL) to Recreation (R). They will recommend final approval by the City Council at the June meeting.
- The Commission tabled a request by NOHOA to rezone the maintenance center property from Residential Multiple Family-Medium Density (RMM) to Limited Industrial (LI). Commissioners requested a visit of the site for more information before considering the issue again at their June meeting.
- Planning Commission denied a request to amend the Cities 2040 Comprehensive Plan maps and verbiage for potential sewer extension to the lots located in the Sherwood Trail (Nord subdivision), specifically 15 and 17 North Deep Lake Road. Recommendation for denial will be presented to the City Council on June 9th for their final review.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

Construction Noise

With summer comes outdoor construction season. There are several new homes going in around our community. The City follows state guidelines for construction noise which allow construction from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. If you are building a home or have other exterior work being done, please remind your general contractor of these hours, to keep peace and be a good neighbor.

Fishing is prohibited

Reminder that fishing is not permitted by residents or guests of residents of the City of North Oaks, as per Minnesota Natural Resources Department Statute 6262.0500. Those caught fishing will be ticketed and are subject to paying a fine. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/6262.0500/>. Good news - there's 10,000 other lakes in Minnesota you can fish!

Bear Awareness / Safety Tips

As many residents are aware, there have been repeated sightings of a yearling bear in the community both on the east and west side of North Oaks. Bear are known to travel up to 15 miles each day in

search of food and habitat. Please be sure to **take down any bird feeders**, remove any pet food which is being stored outside, bring in garbage cans, and clean grills to allow the bear to safely move along his way out of our community. Ninety-five percent of the sightings have been at bird feeders – please help out by taking them down to discourage repeat visits. You can report your bear sighting to the DNR [HERE](#).

If you do encounter a bear:

- Pick up small children and pets
- Face the bear directly and try to appear as large as possible
- Spread or wave your arms, ideally holding a sweater or coat
- Slowly back away and to the side (sideways is considered non-threatening movement).
- Talk in a calm, low and monotone voice.

Click [HERE](#) for educational information on black bear. Additional information can be found: [Bear Sightings - Awareness | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

Graduation Party Etiquette / Ordinance

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. Please also note that homeowner’s association regulations do not allow for signage in the community. Please instruct your guests with directions as signs are subject to removal by NOHOA.

Brush Pick Complete – Thank you!

Thanks to those who participated in the annual brush pick up day yesterday. Woodland restorations efficiently made stops at 30+ households to collect excess brush. Check out a [photo of brush pickup day](#) in action. If there are any follow up issues, contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519.

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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** – Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission** – Monday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
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—6/10/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the City Council Meeting – Thursday, June 9th

- Several residents and the applicant spoke in support of the connection of lots at 15/17 North Deep Lake Road to City sewer.
- Council approved: mechanical/arborist license applications, meeting minutes of the 5/12/22 special and regular council meetings, NOHOA request to rezone 2 parcels at main entrance from Residential single-family low density to Recreation space. Council also approved amendments to the NOHOA sub-tenant and master lease to keep the City offices at the current location.
- The request to amend the 2040 Comprehensive plan to allow City sewer connection for 15/17 North Deep Lake Road was sent back to the Planning Commission for further clarification on their original findings.
- Council discussed options for financing the Charley Lake Association connection to Shoreview water.
- Councilor Dujmovic recapped the safety forum. There was discussion of traffic calming measures which may fit best with our community. Where trails intersect could be good candidates, as well as known speeding locations. During a meeting next week with NOHOA Safe roads committee, he will present on behalf of council top 5 potential test locations and suggestions for each area which could include striping, signage, or physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps.
- Council members reports:
 - Councilor Hara stated that City Hall lease has been completed, and spent time at Planning Commission on topics on the agenda.
 - Councilor Dujmovic mentioned a lot of people are interested in the contract with Ramsey County Sherriff. Spent time NRC Climate Action plan revisions and feedback. A draft will be sent to Council and NRC for additional input.
 - Councilor Watson mentioned the desire by some residents to extend the Lake Gilfillan Augmentation project to include those around Teal Pond. He is also working with LJFD on their long-range planning.
- Administrator Kress participated in NOHOA discussions re: hazardous/diseased trees and carp removal, worked with League of Minnesota Cities and Lake Johanna Fire to assist with Family Leave policies, had discussions with Peace United Methodist Church regarding new signage request.
- Council approved City office to be closed both Friday and Monday July 1st and 4th for fourth of July Holiday.
- City Engineer team continues to look into water meter issue at Charley Lake Estates.
- Residents are invited to participate in the NOHOA/City Recycling event taking place at Southpointe park Saturday June 25th from 8-Noon.

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

COMMUNITY

Coming Soon – City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Sat. June 25th

The City and NOHOA will be co-hosting the 4th annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 25 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 contact the City office at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call the City office at 651-792-7750.

List of Accepted items and coupon can be found [HERE](#).

Free entrance to Minnesota State Parks Saturday, June 11th

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is offering free admission to all 75 Minnesota state parks and recreation areas Saturday, June 11. This “Free Park Day” is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit to enter state parks and recreation areas. The entrance fee waiver does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours.

The goal of Free Park Days is to get all Minnesotans outdoors. Research shows that spending time outdoors in nature provides multiple health and wellness benefits.

The upcoming Free Park Day coincides with National Get Outdoors Day, which takes place annually on the second Saturday in June. To celebrate National Get Outdoors Day, more than 40 special programs are being offered in state parks and recreation areas throughout Minnesota. For a complete list of programs, with times and locations, visit the [DNR's events calendar](http://mndnr.gov/State_Parks/Events.html) (mndnr.gov/State_Parks/Events.html). All programs are free, but some require pre-registration.

NATURAL RESOURCES

 **FREE TREE SAPLINGS - East and West Rec** 

Stop by East or West Rec this weekend 6/10/22-6/12/22 for a free tree saplings! The saplings are sponsored by the City of North Oaks in honor of Arbor Month (May). A few remain - Red Pine (MN State tree) and Silver Maple saplings, 12-20” tall. Look for red 5-gallon buckets with the saplings in water and the FREE TREE signs.

Bring a few paper towels and keep the roots moist on the trees until planting.

Special Tick Event

The event is a single day event scheduled for Friday, June 24th from 9 AM - 3:45 PM CDT and will be held at the University of Minnesota. The agenda includes information about tick collecting by the Tick Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Working Group co-PI, Scott Larson, followed by time in the field to collect ticks. Lunch will be provided from noon to one. After lunch, John Oliver, assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, will be presenting about how to set up a tick surveillance program as well as information about tick-borne diseases. Larson will then share laboratory techniques. The end of the day will feature a discussion about resources for pathogen testing followed by a question and answer period.

Information about the Tick Academy & link to register can be found here: <https://tickipmwg.wordpress.com/agendas/> .

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Notice of Public Hearing

There will be a public hearing as part of the next Planning Commission meeting taking place on Thursday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to hold public hearings to consider:

- A Conditional Use Permit FOR A HOME LOCATED AT 16 SHERWOOD TRAIL IN EXCESS OF 35 FEET pursuant to City Code Section 151.050(D)(7) and potential Planning Commission action regarding recommendation to the City Council of approval or denial of the application.
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Neighboring property owners will be notified of the request. The link to the full meeting packet will be available on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting.

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.

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 stay within their own yards for the safety of all. The full ordinance on domestic animals can be found under Ordinance 90.15 [HERE](#).

DNR advice for dealing with storm damaged trees

From 6/2/2022 DNR newsletter

Cleanup following a storm can be an overwhelming task for homeowners. If trees have been damaged, knowing which to save and which to remove can enhance people's safety and the survival of remaining trees, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Information on tree care, proper pruning techniques and handling damaged trees is available on the [storm damage page of the DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/TreeCare/Maintenance/StormDamage-Prevention.html) (mndnr.gov/TreeCare/Maintenance/StormDamage-Prevention.html). For more extensive information on tree care, contact a DNR forester, City forester, certified arborist or county extension staff.

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City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—6/17/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Natural Resources Commission Meeting Cancelled

The Natural Resources Commission Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 13 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The Commission will meet next on Monday, July 11 and 6 p.m.

Road Construction Scheduled on Ash Street

Anoka County has scheduled a road construction project on Ash Street in Lino Lakes June 20-23. This may affect traffic for residents living on the North side of the City in the Rapp Farm and Preserve Trail areas. For more information on the location of the project and suggested detours, visit the Anoka County Highway Department website: [2022 Projects | Anoka County, MN - Official Website](#)

COMMUNITY

Coming Soon – City / NOHOA Recycling Day – Next Saturday, June 25th

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 4th annual recycling and paper shredding event NEXT Saturday, June 25 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.

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Summer Music

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City Administrator



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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—6/25/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Today!!! City / NOHOA Recycling Event – Cash or Check only

The City / NOHOA recycling and paper shredding event is today 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. This event is CASH 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, grills, 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 attached, etc.)

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The list of accepted items, fee and 1 free item coupon can be found [HERE](#). **If there is an item not on the list that you are looking to recycle, call Recycle Technologies at 763-785-0456 to confirm whether they can take it.**

SAFETY

Fireworks and Fourth of July Festivities

As you are planning Fourth of July festivities, remember that fireworks are not allowed in North Oaks without appropriate licensing and permits. However, there are many other local celebrations where you can enjoy this Independence Day tradition. Visit the following website for a listing of festivities throughout Minnesota: [Where to Watch Fourth of July Fireworks in 2022 | Explore Minnesota](#)

COMMUNITY

Hill Farm Society – Ice Cream Social Sunday

The Hill Farm Historical Society Ice Cream Social is Sunday, June 26, 2022, 2:00-4:00 at the Hill Farm.

North Oaks residents and their guests are invited to come and enjoy an ice cream treat in a relaxed atmosphere while you walk around the farm and learn about the history of the farm on the displays in the Dairy Building, Blacksmith Shop and Granary (The Red Barn.)

HFHS members receive two free ice cream treats. \$1.00 for non-members.

Local Farmers Markets

Looking for the nearby farmers markets? Check out the following options in our area:

- Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria Street N: lower parking lot-Tuesday evenings 3 – 7 p.m.

- White Bear Lake – Downtown White Bear Lake on Clark between 2nd and 3rd Streets: Weekly on Fridays, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
- Mahtomedi Area Farmers Market – Veterans Memorial Park, 93 Mahtomedi Ave: Saturdays 8 a.m.-Noon
- Circle Pines-Lexington Lions Club Farmers Market – Municipal Liquor Store, 4139 Woodland Road, Lexington: Wednesdays 2-6 p.m.
- New Brighton Farmers Market – New Brighton Community Center, Wednesdays 3-7 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Reminder: Leave Fawns Alone

It's the time of year when fawn sightings are becoming more common in the area. Keep in mind that fawns, born from May through July, may be purposely left alone by their mothers. Female deer, called does, may stay away from the fawns for up to three days to avoid leading predators to their location. The white spotted coat camouflages a fawn as it lies motionless in vegetation. Please keep pets and kids away during this time and admire this circle of life from afar.

For more information on what to do if you encounter sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, visit [Sick, Injured, or Orphaned Wildlife | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

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Road Construction Scheduled on Ash Street

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- **Natural Resource Commission** – Monday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m.
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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.

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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—7/1/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Office Closure – Friday, July 1 and Monday, July 4

The City of North Oaks offices will be close on Friday, July 1st and Monday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and festive 4th of July!

Recycling Schedule – NO changes

There is NO impact to the recycling schedule next week due to the 4th of July Holiday. Please put your items out by 7:30 a.m. on your normal day.

North Oaks Recycling Event Recap

The City and NOHOA's fourth annual recycling and paper shredding event was a success! Nearly 200 households participated in the event. Thanks to the residents and volunteers who came out despite the rainy conditions.

If you are still looking to dispose or recycle household items, visit [Recycling & Waste | Ramsey County](#) for details on how to dispose of yard waste, household hazardous waste, organics, and more.

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the June 30, 2022 meeting include:

- Recommended approval to the City Council for a home height CUP for 38 Catbird Lane and 16 Sherwood Trail. Recommended additional findings for a denial for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for City sewer for lots on Sherwood Trail. The City Council will take action on these items at their July 14th meeting.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

SAFETY

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Ramsey County Sherriff's office, the City and NOHOA are aware of the driveway drop of propaganda which occurred in the overnight hours of Sunday-Monday. The Sherriff's department is investigating and picked up many of these items, however be aware that this is not an isolated incident targeting our City. Unfortunately, this has been reported at random locations throughout the country. If you have camera footage that may be helpful, please call the non-emergency number above.

COMMUNITY

2022 Primary Election – August 9th

This year, the primary election is August 9. [Register online](#) or check to see if you're already registered here.

If you need to vote Absentee, [click here](#) to apply for a ballot online and options for returning your ballot. You may vote by absentee ballot beginning Friday, June 24th by mail or at [Ramsey County offices](#).

National Night Out – Sign up Now with Ramsey County Sherriff Department

Summer is here! If you're interested in being a host for the Neighborhood National night out on Tuesday August 2th, [register with the Ramsey County Sherriff's office](#) 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 will receive visits from Ramsey County Sherriff's department, fire department/elected officials during their event.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Fireworks and Fourth of July Festivities

As you are planning Fourth of July festivities, remember that fireworks are not allowed in North Oaks without appropriate licensing and permits. However, there are many other local celebrations where you can enjoy this Independence Day tradition. Visit the following website for a listing of festivities throughout Minnesota: [Where to Watch Fourth of July Fireworks in 2022 | Explore Minnesota](#)

Local Farmers Markets

Looking for the nearby farmers markets? Check out the following options in our area:

- Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria Street N: lower parking lot-Tuesday evenings 3 – 7 p.m.
- White Bear Lake – Downtown White Bear Lake on Clark between 2nd and 3rd Streets: Weekly on Fridays, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
- Mahtomedi Area Farmers Market – Veterans Memorial Park, 93 Mahtomedi Ave: Saturdays 8 a.m.-Noon
- Circle Pines-Lexington Lions Club Farmers Market – Municipal Liquor Store, 4139 Woodland Road, Lexington: Wednesdays 2-6 p.m.
- New Brighton Farmers Market – New Brighton Community Center, Wednesdays 3-7 p.m.

Reminder: Leave Fawns Alone

It's the time of year when fawn sightings are becoming more common in the area. Keep in mind that fawns, born from May through July, may be purposely left alone by their mothers. Female deer, called does, may stay away from the fawns for up to three days to avoid leading predators to their location. The white spotted coat camouflages a fawn as it lies motionless in vegetation. Please keep pets and kids away during this time and admire this circle of life from afar.

For more information on what to do if you encounter sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, visit [Sick, Injured, or Orphaned Wildlife | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Historical City Eblast Communications

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UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/8/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Natural Resource Commission - July Meeting Cancelled

Due to lack of quorum, the July Natural Resource Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Monday, August 8th, 2022.

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 improvements process.

SAFETY

Juvenile Incidents

With summertime in full swing, there have been additional reports of juvenile incidents around the community. This includes ringing doorbells, placing items on cars, vandalizing porta-johns, etc. These incidents have occurred in the late evening hours with friends. Please remind children to be respectful of neighbors, that damaging community property impacts all of us, and that many people do have cameras on their property. Please contact the Sheriff's department to report any incidents via non-emergency dispatch #651-291-1111, or call 911.

National Night Out – Sign up by July 15th with Ramsey County Sherriff Department

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Last year there were 11 registered National Night out events throughout our North Oaks community, with over 130 throughout the 7 local cities the Ramsey County Sherriff's serve. Let's continue the trend of a strong and healthy community relationship.

Auto Theft Alert – Kia & Hyundai vehicles targeted by Thieves

Excerpt from Ramsey county Sheriff Neighborhood Watch July 2022 newsletter

Kia's built 2011-2021 and Hyundai built 2015-2021, which are manufactured by the same parent company, have security vulnerabilities which allow the vehicles to be more easily stolen. Hyundai and Kia have made changes beginning with their 2022 models by installing engine immobilizers and other fixes. Cars with push button start or an engine immobilizer are harder to steal.

Recommendations for Hyundai & Kia owners to prevent theft:

1. Purchase and utilize a steering wheel lock (while not a perfect solution it is a visual deterrent).
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3. Keep your vehicle in a secure location instead of parking on the street or in the driveway. If you must park on a public street, try to park under a streetlight.
4. Don't leave anything of value in your car — wallets, phones, personal identification, keys, title, power cords — take them with you when leaving your vehicle.
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NATURAL RESOURCES

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The DNR may periodically take fish from Pleasant Lake for testing purposes or for display in Minnesota State Fair tanks. Good news: There are 10,000 other lakes in Minnesota where you can fish! Check out nearby lakes such as Turtle Lake, Snail Lake, or Snail Lake Regional Park.

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North Oaks Recycling Event Recap

The City and NOHOA's fourth annual recycling and paper shredding event was a success! Nearly 200 households participated in the event, and **15,651 pounds** were kept out of the landfill. Thanks to the residents and volunteers who came out despite the rainy conditions.

If you are still looking to dispose or recycle household items, visit [Recycling & Waste | Ramsey County](#) for details on how to dispose of yard waste, household hazardous waste, organics, and more.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/15/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Interested in running for City Office?

There are 2 City Council seats, and 1 Mayoral seat which expire at the end of December 2022. Parties interested in running for any of these positions must apply with Ramsey County Elections office during the August 2-16 filing period. Direct any questions on these positions, time commitments, and responsibilities to the City Administrator Kevin Kress at 651-792-7750.

2022 Primary Election – August 9th

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City Council Highlights

Highlights from last night’s July 14, 2022 City council meeting include:

- Officer Pam Lee gave a report on recent incidents in the neighborhood, including several acts of vandalism, trespassing/solicitation and speeding along North Oaks Road.
- Lake Johanna Fire Chief Tim Boehlke presented a status update on service calls in the City and surrounding areas, as well as current needs, including expanded staffing. The fire department has applied for a grant to assist with increasing staffing levels over the next three years.
- City Council authorized City Administrator Kress and City Councilor Watson to initiate a contract with the Charley Lake Townhome Association and begin working on the financing to allow them to connect to Shoreview water.
- City Engineer John Morast presented his recommendations for 5-6 priority locations for traffic calming measures. Potential traffic calming measures could include modular, temporary items such as ramps, crossing sections, pylons, signs, etc. Council encouraged further feedback from residents and conversation with NOHOA before taking action. See entry in “Safety” section below for more information.

- Council approved a proclamation to recognize Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022.
- Council authorized City Administrator Kress and City staff to work within a \$100,000 budget for office and community room updates and improvements.

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

Budget Analytics

Curious about City budgeting and trends? Residents can find this data here <https://www.northoaksmn.gov/City-hall/pages/City-budget> Each month the City Council receives and reviews this information to keep the City on track. For more details contact the City at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov

North Oaks History at the James J. Hill House

North Oaks was once a working farm and country estate for James J. Hill and his family. The family typically moved to North Oaks in the spring and stayed until October.

You can learn more about how the Hill family spent their summers in North Oaks at an exhibit currently on display at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul. Visit www.mnhs.org/hillhouse for more information, and follow along on Facebook as the Minnesota Historical Society shares images and stories from the Hill era: [\(1\) James J. Hill House | Facebook](#)

SAFETY

Traffic Calming Measures – Feedback Needed

City Engineers recently conducted a traffic calming study to identify potential areas around the City where traffic calming measures could be utilized to reduce speeding. Their findings were presented at the July 14, 2022 City Council Meeting, which can be viewed [here](#). The PowerPoint for the presentation is also available on the City website at: [Traffic Calming Measures - Feedback Needed | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

The City welcomes feedback from residents on these findings, and any other locations that could benefit from traffic calming measures. To share your thoughts, please email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov with the subject line “Traffic Calming Feedback”.

Policing

Is it too good to be true!?! Scams, watch out for suspicious requests. Watch out for your neighbors who might be away. Report all suspicious activity! Take caution while driving, there are lots of people out walking, biking, and enjoying our City.

Updated Frequently Asked questions

In response to frequent questions to the City Office and Deputy Lee, the City website has been updated with responses to some of the most popular questions such as speed and parking regulations, noise, property line disputes, as well as questions regarding sheds, fences, lighting, paying water bills online, and what do if moving from an area with City water. View the full list of Frequently asked questions [HERE](#), or by selecting FAQ’s from the Community drop down list on the [City homepage](#).

National Night Out – Deadline to Sign up TODAY with Ramsey County Sherriff Department

The deadline to [register with the Ramsey County Sherriff's office](#) to be a host for the Neighborhood National night out on Tuesday August 2th, is **TODAY**. After this point they cannot guarantee your event will make the list to receive visits from Ramsey County Sherriff's department, fire department, and other safety folks.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Mini Toads on the Loose!

From the Minnesota DNR: "American toads can commonly be found across Minnesota. What makes these toads special is how tiny the newly metamorphosed toads are. American toad tadpoles are known to metamorphose at a very small size, often all at once, creating fields and forests alive with itty-bitty toadlets. They may be small, but these little amphibians are quick and will keep moving in search of ants and other small invertebrates—lest they become lunch to snakes or racoons."

Have you seen any mini toads? Keep an eye out on North Oaks roads and trails for these adorable amphibians!

Learn more about American toads: http://mndnr.gov/reptiles.../frogs_toads/toads/american.html

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

When is a permit required?

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/22/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Planning Commission Meeting - Cancelled

Due to lack of items for review, the Thursday July 28th regular meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 25th, 2022.

UPDATE - Interested in running for City Office?

The filing period for the upcoming November election is open from **August 2-16**. Affidavits of candidacy for the following positions must be filed along with the \$2 fee at the North Oaks City:

- Mayor (2-year position)
- Two Council seats (4-year positions)

For information on how to file, contact Stephanie Marty at smarty@northoaksmn.gov or phone at (651) 792-7758, or visit [Candidate Filing | Ramsey County](#).

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**** Shoreview City Hall is NOT a voting location for North Oaks residents. ONLY Shoreview Residents may vote early at that location.**

COMMUNITY

Slice of Shoreview Days – This weekend!

Our neighboring City of Shoreview is hosting their annual Slice of Shoreview this weekend. Visit [HERE](#) for complete details of the parade scheduled for Saturday 7/23 from 10 – 11 a.m., and festival times and activities at Island Lake County Park. There is also a special insert in the Shoreview Press which arrived in mailboxes yesterday.

Road Construction Mounds View High School

For those with students at Mound View High School activities, stay aware of upcoming roadwork planned for early August which will close the road in front of Moundsview High School. Visit the [Arden Hills Facebook page](#) for complete details and status updates as the construction approaches.

SAFETY

Community Feedback Needed – Speed safety issues

In response to community feedback, City Engineers recently conducted a traffic calming study to identify potential areas around the city where traffic calming measures could be utilized to reduce speeding. See full details in the “Reminders” section below.

Lock Vehicles

With the addition of people coming through the community for summer scheduled outdoor activities and contractor work, residents are encouraged to keep doors of vehicles locked and garage doors shut even while at home.

Mail Theft

There has been a report of mail theft in the community this week. Please consider depositing outbound mail and items containing checks directly at the post office drop box. We encourage residents not to put the red flag up which may alert thieves of outgoing mail. Be sure to pick up incoming mail from your box daily.

If interested in getting on the list to order a locking mailbox, contact the city office at 651-792-7750. There are a limited number of locking mailboxes available for purchase at the City Office. For more information about the mailboxes and how to purchase, visit [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](https://www.northoaksmn.gov/order-a-locking-mailbox)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Caring for Trees in Drought Conditions

Did you know that trees need the equivalent of at least one inch of rain each week? The Minnesota DNR offers the following tips for caring for trees during drought conditions:

- Filling a water bag placed around your tree is the easiest method.
- Water in the early morning or late at night to reduce evaporation and conserve water.
- Use a soaker hose to cover the ground under the canopy of the tree until the top 6 inches of soil are damp. This is a great approach for mature trees!
- Trickle water from the hose, rotating the hose around the tree for 15 minutes on all four sides of the tree.
- Grab a 5-gallon bucket and very slowly dump a bucket over the tree roots – about 25 gallons over a day or two should do the trick. Just remember to do it every week!

Learn more at mndnr.gov/treecare/caring-pruning.html

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The City welcomes feedback from residents on these findings, and any other locations that could benefit from traffic calming measures. To share your thoughts, please email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov with the subject line “Traffic Calming Feedback”.

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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—7/29/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Night to Unite Events

There are 9 Night to Unite Events scheduled to take place throughout North Oaks this upcoming Tuesday, August 2nd. If you’re hosting one of these neighborhood events, thank you for bringing neighbors together! Take pictures and send them to City Hall at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to share community spirit via our Facebook page.

Many of the events are also participating as a school donation drop off location. Call the City office for local event locations if you’d like to drop off school supplies for the Ramsey County Sherriff’s office to distribute to those in need.

In total, there are 170 Night to Unite events registered in the 7 local communities the Ramsey County Sherriff’s office supports. That’s a lot of visits by Sherriff’s staff. Please thank them for their service if they stop by your event and enjoy this chance to reconnect with local neighbors and bring the community and public services together!

Conditional Use Permit – 1 South Deep Lake Road

As part of the August 25th Planning Commission meeting, a Conditional Use permit application for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at 1 South Deep Lake Road will be reviewed. Neighbors within 300 feet of the address will be notified via mail 10 days prior to the meeting, and materials for review will be available on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting. Feedback on applications before Planning Commission is always welcomed. Email City Administrator Kevin Kress at kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

Septic Pumping Reminders

City staff is busy sending out reminders for those homes with their bi-annual septic pumping due through October 2022. For convenience, the letter includes the name of the previous pumper at your property, however you are welcome to choose any licensed septic pumper. A list of those frequently in North Oaks can be found [HERE](#).

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COMMUNITY

League of Women Voters – Candidate Forums

For those who may be thinking of running for a City office, save the dates for the planned [Candidate forums](#) hosted by the League of Women Voter's of White Bear Lake. Residents will also have the opportunity to submit questions to be asked prior to the event, as well as re-watch the forum after the event occurs. More details to come. Candidates considering running for office can pick up an application at the City office, to be returned during the August 2nd – 16th, 2022 filing period. (*See "reminders" section below).

Historical Society Farm Fest – Save the date

Save the date for the annual Farm Fest scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 3 – 7 p.m. at the James J. Hill Farm located at 35 Hill Farm Circle. This great community event is hosted by the Hill Farm Historical society. Send an email to denise.k.fleming@comcast.net to volunteer – help is needed in many areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jumping Worms

Check out the article on invasive jumping worms on page 2B of the August issue of the North Oaks News now in mailboxes. This Natural Resource Commission article presents information on how to identify invasive jumping worms, their negative impact, and tips to prevent it from spreading.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

UPDATE - Interested in running for City Office?

The filing period for the upcoming November election is open from **August 2-16**. Affidavits of candidacy for the following positions must be filed along with the \$2 fee at the North Oaks City:

- Mayor (2-year position)
- Two Council seats (4-year positions)

For information on how to file, contact Stephanie Marty at smarty@northoaksmn.gov or phone at (651) 792-7758, or visit [Candidate Filing | Ramsey County](#).

2022 Primary Election – August 9th

This year, the primary election is August 9. [Register online](#) or check to see if you're already registered here.

If you need to vote Absentee, [click here](#) to apply for a ballot online and view options for returning your ballot. You may vote by absentee ballot beginning Friday, June 24th by mail or at [Ramsey County offices](#). The closest in person early voting location is the **Roseville Library** at 2180 Hamline Avenue N. Roseville from 10-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

** Shoreview City Hall is **NOT** a voting location for North Oaks residents. ONLY Shoreview Residents may vote early at that location.

COMMUNITY

Road Construction Mounds View High School

For those with students at Mound View High School activities, stay aware of upcoming roadwork planned for early August which will close the road in front of Mounds View High School. Visit the [Arden Hills Facebook page](#) for complete details and status updates as the construction approaches.

SAFETY

Community Feedback Needed – Speed Safety Issues

In response to community feedback, City Engineers recently conducted a traffic calming study to identify potential areas around the City where traffic calming measures could be utilized to reduce speeding. See [Traffic Calming Measures - Feedback Needed | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#) for full details.

Mail Theft

There has been a report of mail theft in the community this week. Please consider depositing outbound mail and items containing checks directly at the post office drop box. We encourage residents not to put the red flag up which may alert thieves of outgoing mail. Be sure to pick up incoming mail from your box daily.

If interested in getting on the list to order a locking mailbox, contact the City office at 651-792-7750. There are a limited number of locking mailboxes available for purchase at the City Office. For more information about the mailboxes and how to purchase, visit [Order a Locking Mailbox | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Caring for Trees in Drought Conditions

Did you know that trees need the equivalent of at least one inch of rain each week? The Minnesota DNR offers the following tips for caring for trees during drought conditions:

- Filling a water bag placed around your tree is the easiest method.
- Water in the early morning or late at night to reduce evaporation and conserve water.

- Use a soaker hose to cover the ground under the canopy of the tree until the top 6 inches of soil are damp. This is a great approach for mature trees!
- Trickle water from the hose, rotating the hose around the tree for 15 minutes on all four sides of the tree.
- Grab a 5-gallon bucket and very slowly dump a bucket over the tree roots – about 25 gallons over a day or two should do the trick. Just remember to do it every week!

Learn more at mndnr.gov/treecare/caring-pruning.html

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/5/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Hall and NOHOA Phone outage

Due to technical issues, City Hall, NOHOA as well as several other surrounding City offices supported through the same carrier have had no phone service since Wednesday. Lumen, the cable provider, is working to repair the fiber cut and restore full service as soon as possible. Please email any questions or permit applications to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or stop in City Hall. City Hall hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - Noon on Friday's.

Reminder: 2022 Primary Election – Next Tuesday, August 9th

This year, the primary election is Tuesday, August 9th. To vote in-person on election day, all residents of North Oaks (both Precinct 1 and 2) vote at North Oaks City Hall at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127. Hours for voting are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To help prepare to vote:

- Preview and research "[What's on my ballot](#)".
- Check your registration here: [Minnesota Secretary Of State - Register To Vote](#).
- If you need to register ON election day, you will need to bring proof of identification and residency. Click [HERE](#) for a full list of acceptable documents.

For more information and results after election day, visit [Elections & Voting | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

Candidate Filing period OPEN for North Oaks City Councilmember and Mayor seats

All candidates interested in running for one of the 2 Council member seats, or the Mayor seat must officially file before Tuesday, August 16th. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. City Council seats are a 4-year term, the Mayor seat is a 2-year term. Stop by the City office between 9 – 4 p.m. Monday – Thursday, or Friday 9 – Noon to pick up a filing packet and submit the \$2 fee.

Natural Resource Commission and City Council Meetings Next week

There will be a Natural Resource Commission meeting on Monday, August 8th held via zoom.

There will also be a City Council workshop on Thursday, August 11th to consider the future of North Oaks policing, followed by the regularly scheduled 7 p.m. monthly City council meeting. The City Council meeting will be in Council Chambers, with participation by zoom available.

The meeting agenda packet and zoom links for all City meetings can be found on the City website no later than 72 hours prior to each meeting. Select the respective meeting entry on the [City meeting calendar](#).

Night to Unite Events

Thanks to those who hosted or participated in the Night to Unite events on Tuesday, August 2nd! Remember to send your picture to City Hall at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov to share community spirit via our Facebook page.

Special thanks to the Lake Johanna Fire Department for their participation in the event. Unfortunately, Ramsey County Sheriff's personnel were not able to attend events on the night of the event due to the loss of one of their patrol deputies. The City sends its condolences to the Sheriff's Office personnel on this tragic loss.

If your neighborhood collected school supplies for the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office school supply drive, they ask that you help them in the collection effort in one of the following ways:

1. Drop the collected supplies off at the Patrol Station, 1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112 (near the intersection of Highway 96 West and Hamline Avenue North) during lobby hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm.
2. If the amount is more than you're comfortable transporting, please connect with the Crime Prevention Unit starting Wednesday Aug. 3 to arrange pick-up by Sheriff personnel. Email: CrimePrevention@ramseycounty.us or phone: 651-266-7339.

COMMUNITY

Ralph Reeder Good Neighbor Back to School Project

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf is accepting donations for school supplies for the 2022-2023 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 12, 2022. For more information on how to donate, visit [Ralph Reeder Food Shelf / School Supplies \(moundsvIEWSchools.org\)](https://moundsvIEWSchools.org)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Facebook Livestream Workshop: Caring for your Pollinator Garden

[Metro Blooms](#) is hosting a Facebook Livestream workshop on caring for Pollinator Gardens. Landscape designer Jen Ehlert to go over mid-summer maintenance for your pollinator garden. She'll be live onsite at a pollinator garden in Corcoran, showing us common weeds and how to get rid of them. They will have a Q+A to answer questions live as well.

The event will take place on Thursday, August 11 from 12-1 p.m. For more information, visit [Livestream Maintenance Training: Caring for your Pollinator Garden | Facebook](#)

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Conditional Use Permit – 1 South Deep Lake Road

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feet of the address will be notified via mail 10 days prior to the meeting, and materials for review will be available on the City website 72 hours prior to the meeting. Feedback on applications before Planning Commission is always welcomed. Email City Administrator Kevin Kress at kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/12/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

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- The Commission discussed staffing an NRC booth at the Hill Farm Fest on Sunday, September 11th from 3 – 7 p.m.
- Discussion took place regarding the upcoming Perseid Meteor Shower.
- Discussed White Bear Lake water conservation lawsuit.

The recording of the Zoom meeting can be viewed [HERE](#).

City Council Workshop Highlights from August 11, 2022 Meeting

- City Council discussed the current state of policing in North Oaks and the Ramsey County Sherriff Contract which expires in December 2024.
- Discussed possibility of any adjustments that the City may desire going forward, or consideration of other options that may be more tailored to North Oaks needs.
- Ramsey County Deputy provided valuable input on additional considerations such as; range of services available, importance of response time, proximity of Ramsey County Sherriff to our community, investigative and administrative support.
- Discussions will continue into the best future use of policing funds.

City Council Highlights from the August 11, 2022 Regular City Council meeting

- Resident spoke to request City provide information on how much funding has been spent discussing the Comp Plan amendment request for 15/17 North Deep Lake Road.
- Officer Lee encouraged residents to keep car and home doors locked to minimize crimes of opportunity. Solicitors have frequently been reported in the community this week. She asks

residents note the color of car, license plate, description of persons when reporting soliciting, to assist in finding the parties.

- The Resolution to deny a Comp Plan amendment request for 15/17 North Deep Lake Road was approved by a 3-2 vote. Shah and Dujmovic opposed.
- Discussion took place regarding potential traffic calming measures and location of higher priority areas. Councilor Dujmovic noted there are some measures than can be used in different pull together the costs options by next council meeting, for potential inclusion in the 2023 budget.
- The proposed 2023 budget was reviewed with the goal of keeping the tax rate the same. Preliminary budgets must be submitted by September 30, 2022.
- Parental leave policy for City staff was reviewed and unanimously approved. There was no prior policy in place.
- Administrator Kress requested City Council asked Councilors to advise who may wish to participate in a City table at Farm Fest table on September 11th from 3-7 p.m., or a City table at the NOHOA new member event on Sunday, August 21st at the Golf Club.
- Watson suggested we start publicizing any 2023 openings for Natural Resource Commission and Planning Commission early, to allow time for residents to think about applying. Representatives from Council and NRC participated in discussions with White Bear Township on securing and retaining joint powers agreement to continue water services ongoing into the future.
- Hara mentioned there is a Phase 3 Lyme disease vaccine trials underway that could be promising.
- Dujmovic noted there has been a positive impact with the 2 radar speed signs in the community. There were 63 traffic stops with 58 citations last month, many on Highway 96, as part of a statewide speed crackdown initiative.
- Administrator Kress asked for feedback from Council on whether there is desire to make improvements to the Council Chambers as part of renewal of Lease contracts. Suggested to possibly embrace photography of local artists. Options will be brought back to Council at the September meeting.

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COMMUNITY

Primary Election Results

Thanks to all the residents who came out to vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 9th. On the ballot were candidates for the offices of: Governor & Lt. Governor, Congressional District #4, Attorney General, Secretary of State. The full election results can be found on the [Minnesota Secretary of State website](#).

Replacement Keys for Locking Mailboxes

If you ordered a locking mailbox through the City and need replacement keys, or would like to order spare keys, these can be purchased through the mailbox company. For information on how to do so, visit [Replacement Keys Archives - Mailboss](#).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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- **Planning Commission** – Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.

- **Natural Resources Commission** – Monday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/19/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City of North Oaks Candidates for 2022 Election

The following individuals have filed affidavits of candidacy for a City of North Oaks office for the General election November 4th (in alphabetical order)

Mayor:

Kara Ries

Krista Wolter

Council:

Mark Azman

Rich Dujmovic

Grover Sayre

John Schuman

Applicants will be invited to participate in White Bear Lake League of Women’s Voter candidate forums. The dates of the forums and link to submit questions for the candidates can be found [HERE](#). The candidate forums will be recorded, and viewing link posted following the session.

Election Judges

Serve the community and promote the democratic process! Election judges’ staff local polling places for the primary and general election as well as during early voting. You can earn money, meet your neighbors and help ensure that elections are administered in a fair manner. Refer to the [Ramsey County Election Judge website](#) for complete details and how to apply.

Openings: North Oaks Planning Commission and Natural Resources Commission

The City of North Oaks is now accepting applications for Planning Commission for 3-year terms to begin in January 2023. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing the City’s Comprehensive Plan, conditional use permits (CUP), variances and development related submissions. Upon review the

commission makes recommendations to the City Council. The North Oaks Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

The City of North Oaks is also accepting applications to the Natural Resources Commission. This body is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the second Monday of the month. The Commission evaluates Conservation Award applications along with developing and educating residents on best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on either Commission should [review the appointment](#) policy and submit the [Board 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. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Call City Hall at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

COMMUNITY

Farm Fest needs volunteers: There's still time!

Volunteers make Farm Fest happen. Help make this year's event a great success by donating a little of your time supervising the kids' games. Adults and teens are needed to oversee musical chairs, horseshoes, egg and spoon races, bingo, and a ping-pong game called Feed the Pigs: you'll have as much fun as the kids!

Sign up online at: signupgenius.com/go/10c0949ada62ea1fd0-farm1 or contact Gretchen Needham at gneedham@gmail.com.

Thank you for participating! See you at Farm Fest on **Sunday, September 11!**

City Table at New Resident Event – Sunday 8/21

For those attending the new resident event hosted by the North Oaks Homeowners Association on Sunday, stop by the City of North Oaks table from 3-5 p.m. to sign up for City eblasts and ask questions. We look forward to meeting you!

NATURAL RESOURCES

Reminder: Tick Survey is Ongoing

Have you had encountered a tick recently, or been diagnosed with a tick-borne illness? Remember to report your experience via the Natural Resource Commission/Tick Task Force Survey.

The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and answers are anonymous. Please take a minute to complete the survey, and update it in the future whenever a new incident occurs. [North Oaks Natural Resources Commission & Tick Task Force Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

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- Dujmovic noted there has been a positive impact with the 2 radar speed signs in the community. There were 63 traffic stops with 58 citations last month, many on Highway 96, as part of a statewide speed crackdown initiative.
- Administrator Kress asked for feedback from Council on whether there is desire to make improvements to the Council Chambers as part of renewal of Lease contracts. It was suggested to possibly embrace photography of local artists. Options will be brought back to Council at the September meeting.

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

COMMUNITY

Primary Election Results

Thanks to all the residents who came out to vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 9th. On the ballot were candidates for the offices of: Governor & Lt. Governor, Congressional District #4, Attorney General, Secretary of State. The full election results can be found on the [Minnesota Secretary of State website](#).

Replacement Keys for Locking Mailboxes

If you ordered a locking mailbox through the City and need replacement keys, or would like to order spare keys, these can be purchased through the mailbox company. For information on how to do so, visit [Replacement Keys Archives - Mailboss](#).

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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** – Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission** – Monday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/26/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Planning Commission Highlights:

Highlights from the August 25, 2022 meeting include:

- Conditional Use Permit application for garage in excess of 1,500 feet at 1 South Deep Lake Road was recommended for approval. This recommendation will be reviewed by City Council on September 8th, 2022 at 7 p.m. meeting for final decision.

To watch the full Planning Commission meeting, click [HERE](#).

Pleasant Lake Beach Closed Until Further Notice

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COMMUNITY

Minnesota State Fair – Park & Ride Locations

The Great Minnesota Get Together is here! The State Fair will run Thursday, August 25-Monday, September 5. If you are planning to attend, check out the following website for to locate convenient Park & Ride locations close to the City of North Oaks: [Free Park & Ride | Minnesota State Fair \(mnstatefair.org\)](#)

SAFETY

What is a Solicitor?

The community has experienced several reports of soliciting this week. A solicitor is an uninvited person in our private community putting materials on door knobs / mailboxes, or knocking on doors. This applies to both contractors soliciting business, as well as individuals promoting different social causes or political parties. Per [City Ordinance 131](#), these individuals are trespassing in our community since they are not residents or invited guests. Doing work on a home nearby does not give permission for contractors to knock on neighbors' doors. To reach our residents, these materials must be sent through U.S. Mail system or advertised in the local paper.

Report solicitors to Ramsey County via 911 or the non-emergency #651-291-1111. Please note the description of car, license plate, and description of persons if possible.

Please note that candidates for local North Oaks office such as Mayor and City Council are residents of our community and therefore are not trespassing. Local candidates may drop information in newspaper slots on mailboxes, however we do ask they do NOT approach doorways.

Candidate Information / Political Guidelines

With the November election ballot for local North Oaks City offices set, candidates will be invited to record a 5 minute "Speak Out" presentation by NineNorth, and well as participate in the League of Women Voters candidate forum. Residents are encouraged to [submit questions for the candidates](#) by Friday, September 9th. The candidate forum will be conducted on Monday, September 12th at the NineNorth studio. There will be no live audience. Links to view these events will be published in the City eblast, website and Facebook page once they become available mid-September.

The North Oaks News or Shoreview Press may also have information on local candidates as the November election approaches. Please note, although political signage is allowed via State Statute, communities with Homeowners Associations such as North Oaks may have deeds and covenants that are more restrictive. NOHOA regulations allow only 1 real estate sign, with no political signage allowed. Candidates are asked to put any physical political signage outside of the private roads in our North Oaks community.

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Good Neighbor Guide

From the [VLAWMO website](#):

Have you ever thought, "There's probably a water friendly way to do this," but just couldn't recall what the details were? You're not alone!

From turf care to yard waste disposal to smart salting, there's a lot of details to remember to help do things in a water friendly way. That's why VLAWMO and the Watershed Action Volunteers are excited to present the Good Neighbor Guide - a one-stop-shop for all your watershed questions and a seasonal checklist to help cover the bases of watershed care. With a bit of practice and keeping it an active conversation with neighbors, the guide becomes a regular routine.

These guidelines are helpful for our local lakes, streams, wetlands, groundwater, and wildlife, but they're also a neighborly gesture to human watershed dwellers, particularly those who live downstream. Find out more on how to expand the notion of a good neighbor and save a copy for reference at the following link: [Good Neighbor Guide](#)

Disposing of Invasive species

Invasive plants, such as garlic mustard and buckthorn, are accepted at Ramsey yard waste sites. Seeds from these plants are destroyed from the high heat either during the composting process or the burning of mulch for energy recovery.

It is essential to **remove any roots** from the buckthorn plants that are to be picked up or brought to the yard waste site. The Ramsey County yard waste collection sites do not accept buckthorn plants with roots attached. Please place the roots in a yard waste container provided by your garbage hauler.

The nearest Ramsey County yard waste site is located the White Bear Township site located at 5900 Sherwood Road. Refer [HERE](#) for complete list of yard waste sites and hours, which may vary by season.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

City of North Oaks Candidates for 2022 Election

The following individuals have filed affidavits of candidacy for a City of North Oaks office for the General election November 4th (in alphabetical order)

Mayor:

Kara Ries

Krista Wolter

Council:

Mark Azman
Rich Dujmovic
Grover Sayre
John Schuman

Applicants will be invited to participate in White Bear Lake League of Women's Voter candidate forums. The candidate forums will be recorded, and viewing link posted the following day.

Election Judges

Serve the community and promote the democratic process! Election judges' staff local polling places for the primary and general election as well as during early voting. You can earn money, meet your neighbors and help ensure that elections are administered in a fair manner. Refer to the [Ramsey County Election Judge website](#) for complete details and how to apply.

Openings: North Oaks Planning Commission and Natural Resources Commission

The City of North Oaks is now accepting applications for Planning Commission for 3-year terms to begin in January 2023. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing the City's Comprehensive Plan, conditional use permits (CUP), variances and development related submissions. Upon review the commission makes recommendations to the City Council. The North Oaks Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

The City of North Oaks is also accepting applications to the Natural Resources Commission. This body is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the second Monday of the month. The Commission evaluates Conservation Award applications along with developing and educating residents on best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on either Commission should [review the appointment](#) policy and submit the [Board 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. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Call City Hall at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

COMMUNITY

Farm Fest needs volunteers: There's still time!

Volunteers make Farm Fest happen. Help make this year's event a great success by donating a little of your time supervising the kids' games. Adults and teens are needed to oversee musical chairs, horseshoes, egg and spoon races, bingo, and a ping-pong game called Feed the Pigs: you'll have as much fun as the kids!

Sign up online at: signupgenius.com/go/10c0949ada62ea1fd0-farm1 or contact Gretchen Needham at gneedham@gmail.com.

Thank you for participating! See you at Farm Fest on **Sunday, September 11!**

NATURAL RESOURCES

Reminder: Tick Survey is Ongoing

Have you had encountered a tick recently, or been diagnosed with a tick-borne illness? Remember to report your experience via the Natural Resource Commission/Tick Task Force Survey.

The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and answers are anonymous. Please take a minute to complete the survey, and update it in the future whenever a new incident occurs. [North Oaks Natural Resources Commission & Tick Task Force Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/2/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Labor Day Office Closure

The North Oaks City Office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. Happy Labor Day North Oaks!

NO Change to Recycling Pick-up

There is **NO change** to the recycling pick-up schedule next week following the Labor Day holiday. Please make sure to have your recycling bin out by 7:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled pick-up day.

Please contact your garbage service provider directly to determine if there will be any change to your garbage collection date.

Keys Found

A set of car/ truck keys were found in the middle of the road on the north side of the community (West Pleasant Lake Road). If you are missing a set of car keys with other keys attached, reach out to the homeowner's association at 651-792-7765 to describe and claim.

Ash Street / County Road J – Road Project Coming Soon

For those of you in Rapp Farm, be aware of an Anoka Ramsey road project on County Road J/Ash Street beginning at the curve and going east towards Centerville Road starting **Monday, September 12th**. Road crews will be resurfacing the road in this portion for a 2-week period. Those commuting towards Centerville Road may encounter delays as there will be flaggers directing one lane of traffic through at a time.

School buses, cars, emergency vehicles will still be able to pass as work progresses. School districts have been notified. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available from Anoka County.

Refer to the [2022 Projects | Anoka County, MN - Official Website \(anokacountymn.gov\)](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/2022-Projects).

COMMUNITY

Farm Fest 2022

Farm Fest is just 10 days away - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, from 3 - 7 pm at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle). There will be something for everyone! In addition to perennial favorite activities including the famous silent auction, live music, petting zoo, pony rides, children's games pavilion, freshly grilled food and plenty of beverages, a farmer's market, and the opportunity to see inside the historic farm buildings, some new offerings this year include:

- Free trolley rides to/from the West Rec Center to the Hill Farm site, sponsored by Stroll North Oaks magazine
- Veggie burgers and Jonny Pops in the food tent
- Free magic show by magician Patrick Wallace
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Also new this year for football fans - the Viking-Packer game will be broadcast live at the Hill Farm!

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- Monday, September 12 – 10:30-11 a.m.
- Monday, September 19 – 10:30-11 a.m.

North Oaks Rummage Sale Drop Off– 1 week until Donation date

Start gathering your items! The donation day for the North Oaks Women's Guild II is coming up on Saturday, September 10th from 9 – 1:00 p.m. at the Shoreview Ice Arena. Refer here for details and a [list of items accepted](#).

SAFETY

Back-to-School Bus Safety

September means school is back in session and buses are back on the road. Please drive carefully and remember these simple rules from the U.S. Department of Transportation for school bus safety:

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/9/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Back to School

The City wishes all students headed back to the classrooms a great year. A special shout out goes to all those teachers in our community dedicated to improving the lives of our youth. Please drive safely and patiently as the school buses pickup and drop off kids on our winding roads.

City Council Highlights from the September 8, 2022 Regular City Council meeting

- Officer Pam Lee gave an update. Due to resident concerns, she has been focusing on traffic and speeding on North Oaks Road in the summer months. She will continue to monitor the area in the early morning hours.
- City Council approved a Conditional Use permit for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at 1 South Deep Lake Road.
- Council approved a resolution setting the 2023 budget and preliminary tax levy subject to having a Truth in Taxation Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. The draft budget and preliminary tax levy resolution can be found in the [9.8.22 City Council meeting packet](#).
- The City’s legal team gave an update on the lawsuit with the North Oaks Company. The lawsuit has been dismissed with prejudice. City staff will be releasing a full statement outlining the results in the near future.

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

Reminder: Ash Street / County Road J – Road Project Starts Next Week

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North Oaks Garden Club – Next meeting September 20th

To kick off the new Garden Club year, members of the community are invited to attend on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm in the North Oaks Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive.

The feature topic for the meeting will be **PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS:**

James Wolfen, one of the developers of Bee Lawns, and a former UMN Bee Lab master degree student, shares his expertise on Planting for Pollinators – believes that every residence has room for a pollinator planting. He will discuss a variety of different planting options for the yard and garden – from native plantings, to rain gardens, to trees and shrubs, and bee lawns. RSVP – nancygardenhans@yahoo.com

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources / City Table – Farm Fest

Stop by the Natural Resources / City table at Farm fest Sunday. Sign up for City eblasts, and chat with Natural Resources Commissioners, City Council and City Forester about ways to preserve our beautiful natural environment.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/16/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Press Release

City of North Oaks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2022

The Honorable Patrick C. Diamond, Ramsey County District Court Judge, entered an order dismissing a lawsuit brought by the North Oaks Company against the City of North Oaks on September 13, 2022.

The Company sued the City, challenging the denial of final plat approval for the Gate Hill Subdivision. The City denied the application primarily on the basis it did not comply with the 1999 Development Agreement, which governed density and development standards.

During the course of litigation, the Company attempted to expand the litigation to include Red Forest Way South Phase 1, and a number of ancillary issues. Following the Company’s agreement to comply with all the conditions recommended by the City Engineer and City Planner for both developments, the lawsuit was dismissed by stipulation of the parties to avoid the cost and expense of further litigation. All claims for damages, attorney’s fees, and costs were dismissed.

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Highlights from the September 12, 2022 Natural Resources Commission Meeting

The Natural Resource commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The next meeting will be Monday, October 10th, 2022 at 6 p.m.

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum – Get to Know your Candidates!

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COMMUNITY

North Oaks Rummage Sale - Saturday, September 17th and Sunday September 18th

The North Oaks Rummage sale will be held at the Shoreview Ice Arena on Saturday and Sunday September 17th and Sunday September 18th. 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, visit: [2022 North Oaks Rummage Sale](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Free Electronics Recycling Now Available for Ramsey County Residents

Ramsey County residents looking to get rid of laptops, televisions, cell phones or other electronics (e-waste) now have a free and easy way to recycle them. Used and old electronics are the fastest-growing waste in the country and often contain toxic metals like lead, mercury and cadmium. Ramsey County Environmental Health is partnering with Repowered to reuse or refurbish unwanted electronics, and to keep toxic metals out of the environment. All data from electronics dropped off at the e-waste site will be destroyed physically or electronically wiped.

The electronics collection site is located at:

Repowered
860 Vandalia Street
Saint Paul, MN 55114

Learn more at ramseycounty.us/Electronics or call Ramsey County's Recycling and Disposal hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Back to School

The City wishes all students headed back to the classrooms a great year. A special shout out goes to all those teachers in our community dedicated to improving the lives of our youth. Please drive safely and patiently as the school buses pickup and drop off kids on our winding roads.

City Council Highlights from the September 8, 2022 Regular City Council meeting

- Officer Pam Lee gave an update. Due to resident concerns, she has been focusing on traffic and speeding on North Oaks Road in the summer months. She will continue to monitor the area in the early morning hours.
- City Council approved a Conditional Use permit for garage space in excess of 1,500 square feet at 1 South Deep Lake Road.

- Council approved a resolution setting the 2023 budget and preliminary tax levy subject to having a Truth in Taxation Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. The draft budget and preliminary tax levy resolution can be found in the [9.8.22 City Council meeting packet](#).

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

Reminder: Ash Street / County Road J – Road Project Starts Next Week

For those of you in Rapp Farm, be aware of an Anoka Ramsey road project on County Road J/Ash Street beginning at the curve and going east towards Centerville Road starting **Monday, September 12th**. Road crews will be resurfacing the road in this portion for a 2-week period. Those commuting towards Centerville Road may encounter delays as there will be flaggers directing one lane of traffic through at a time.

School buses, cars, emergency vehicles will still be able to pass as work progresses. School districts have been notified. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available from Anoka County. Refer to the [2022 Projects | Anoka County, MN - Official Website \(anokacountymn.gov\)](#).

North Oaks Garden Club – Next meeting September 20th

To kick off the new Garden Club year, members of the community are invited to attend on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm in the North Oaks Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive.

The feature topic for the meeting will be **PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS**:

James Wolfen, one of the developers of Bee Lawns, and a former UMN Bee Lab master degree student, shares his expertise on Planting for Pollinators – believes that every residence has room for a pollinator planting. He will discuss a variety of different planting options for the yard and garden – from native plantings, to rain gardens, to trees and shrubs, and bee lawns. RSVP – nancygardenhans@yahoo.com

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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** – Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, October 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, October 13, 2022 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—9/30/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

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Access to physical files may be limited during the construction period, however City staff will continue to process business remotely during the regular business hours of Monday – Thursday 9 – 4 p.m., and Friday 9 – Noon. For the most efficient response, please email requests to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call 651-792-7750. We appreciate your patience during this period.

Planning Commission Meeting - Cancelled

There was no planning commission meeting on Thursday, September 29th due to lack of business.

Early Voting

Residents may vote early at the Ramsey County Library located at 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113 now through November 7th. Walk-ins are welcomed; no pre-registration for an absentee ballot is required. Voting hours are:

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COMMUNITY

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Health Officials concerned by increase of Measles Cases in State

Parents urged to make sure children are up to date on immunizations

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working with local public health agencies and health care providers in the Twin Cities area to investigate 13 cases of measles that occurred June through September among several different families with unvaccinated children. Most of these children had a history of travel to a country where measles is common and circulating. The most recent case did not have a reported travel history, but investigators are still working to determine how transmission may have occurred. All cases are in the Twin Cities area. The children have been as young as two years old to children in their early teens, and just over a third are pre-teen. Seven children were hospitalized for treatment of measles.

Minnesota's 13 cases are several times greater than the number of cases the state sees in a typical year. Measles spreads easily by coughing, talking, or being in the same room with someone who has measles. Initial symptoms of measles include a high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes followed by a rash that typically spreads from the head to the rest of the body. It generally takes 8 to 12 days from exposure to someone with measles to the first symptom, which is usually fever. The measles rash usually appears two to three days after the fever begins. If you have symptoms of measles, call your doctor or clinic and they will let you know if you need to come in for a visit.

The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination. Children should receive two doses of MMR vaccine: The first at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second at 4 to 6 years of age. Children 6 to 12 months should get an early dose of MMR vaccine if they are traveling to a country where measles is common. For all ages, it is important to talk to your doctor if you are going to be [traveling to another country](#). Your doctor can check to make sure you and your family are up to date on your immunizations and make sure you do not need any other immunizations.

MDH encourages people to check their records to confirm that they and their children have received the MMR vaccine. Minnesotans can request their vaccination records by visiting [Find My Immunization Record](#).

For more information, visit the MDH [measles](#) website.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Press Release

City of North Oaks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2022

The Honorable Patrick C. Diamond, Ramsey County District Court Judge, entered an order dismissing a lawsuit brought by the North Oaks Company against the City of North Oaks on September 13, 2022.

The Company sued the City, challenging the denial of final plat approval for the Gate Hill Subdivision. The City denied the application primarily on the basis it did not comply with the 1999 Development Agreement, which governed density and development standards.

During the course of litigation, the Company attempted to expand the litigation to include Red Forest Way South Phase 1, and a number of ancillary issues. Following the Company's agreement to comply with all the conditions recommended by the City Engineer and City Planner for both developments, the lawsuit was dismissed by stipulation of the parties to avoid the cost and expense of further litigation. All claims for damages, attorney's fees, and costs were dismissed.

The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust retained legal counsel to defend the City in this matter. The City has confirmed that this litigation will not affect the City's future insurance premiums.

The City is pleased to have resolved this litigation and looks forward to working cooperatively with the Company in the future.

Highlights from the September 12, 2022 Natural Resources Commission Meeting

The Natural Resource commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The next meeting will be Monday, October 10th, 2022 at 6 p.m.

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The League of Women Voters hosted a forum for candidates running for North Oaks Mayor and City Council on Monday, September 12th. The recording of the forum is available for viewing on the Nine North website. To hear from candidates running for office, visit [League of Women Voters Candidates Forum - North Oaks - Nine North](#). This link is also available on the homepage of the City of North Oaks website.

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- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/7/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

The City office will be closed on Monday, October 10th

The City office will be closed Monday, October 10th in honor of Federal Holiday Columbus Day. Please email business to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. The office will be reopening at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 11th from the Community Room in Suite 150.

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

The Natural Resource Commission Meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Monday, November 14th, 2022.

For those on Shoreview Sewer /Water 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).

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COMMUNITY

Lake Johanna Fire Prevention Open House

As part of national fire prevention week, the Lake Johanna Fire Prevention Open House is scheduled for Wednesday Oct. 12th at 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station located at 5545 Lexington Avenue N., Shoreview, MN 55126. Added attractions include: ***Life Link III helicopter between 4 - 5 pm (weather permitting), and Twin City Towing will bring a large rotator Tow Truck***

They are still in need of food shelf donations. The fire department has collected 7,397 lbs. of food so far to date, but our friends at Ralph Reeder Food Shelf still need our help before the temperature plummets. We ask all who attend to bring non-perishable food to donate when you attend.

SAFETY

Trailheads

As people get out to enjoy the fall weather, a reminder that trails within North Oaks are for residents and their invited guests only. If you are parking at the trailheads, please ensure your resident sticker is displayed, and guests have visible guest passes. This will assist in ensuring that authorized vehicles only are at the trailheads. Contact the North Oaks Homeowners Association directly at 651-792-7765 if you need resident stickers.

Cold Water Safety

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anyone whose autumn plans include spending time on or around the water to keep safety in mind. While more boating-related accidents happen during the summer, boating fatalities are higher during the cold-water season.

As water temperatures drop, water-based activities become riskier. A fall into a cold lake, pond or river can result in even a strong swimmer becoming incapacitated quickly. Further, cries for help can go unheard and rescues can take longer than in the warm-weather months when more people are on or near the water.

The easiest and most effective way to stay safe and survive a fall into the water is to wear a life jacket. Having a life jacket “nearby” will not help in an accidental fall. Foam life jackets are the best option when the water is cold because inflatable life jackets may not fully inflate.

Changes in weather that result in shifting winds and storms can also lead to a treacherous situation, so it’s vital for anglers, hunters and others recreating on or near the water to keep an eye to the sky.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fall Yard Waste

As leaves start to fall and pile up in your yard, a reminder that leaves and branches should never be put in our wetlands. Bring your leaves, branches and other yard waste to a Ramsey County yard waste site. It's free! A list of locations, hours and what they accept can be found [HERE](#). If you need assistance by a lawn care company, many of the [North Oaks licensed certified tree care companies](#) also do fall yard cleanups.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/14/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Highlights from the Thursday, 10/13/22 City Council Meeting

- City Council approved consent items including: September 2022 City financials, mechanical and arborist licenses, and minutes from the special Council meeting on 4.26.22 and Regular meeting on 9.8.2022.
- Ramsey County Sherriff Lee’s report included an attempted theft via an open garage service door this week. The burglary attempt was scared off by neighbors. Separately, suspects in a traffic stop at Village Center area were found to have catalytic converters and other theft materials. They were apprehended.
- There was an update and discussion on the Charley Lake Homeowners Association water connection project.
- Council approved Councilmember Hara and Administrator Kress to work together to discuss potential upgrades to Council chambers including tables, background wall, paint and wall art.
- Council passed [Ordinance 140 to place a moratorium on sale of cannabis products](#) within the City of North Oaks.
- Councilor Reports included updates on:
 - St. Paul Water authority/VLAWMO meeting to discuss water quality in our watershed.
 - Meeting with White Bear Township to discuss water conservation measures and public education.
 - Councilors, City Staff, NOHOA, City Forester and North Oaks Company meetings both onsite and offsite regarding Red Forest Way. Discussed value of having City Forester available to meet with new property owners as they design / implement new homes to advise of best practices to preserve root systems of significant trees where possible.
 - City met with NOHOA who articulated support for traffic calming measures that could be used seasonally and moveable. NOHOA / City engineers to discuss best location and implementation. Options include: temporary crosswalks, speed humps, and speed cushions with lifespan of items ranging from 9 months to several years of use.
 - Update on renovation project in City office.
 - City Administrator Kress will request DNR permits and tags for deer program. NRC/Council then to decide on whether/how to implement a program this season.

There have also been substantial discussions about dangerous road locations in the community such as Ski/Buffalo/Sunset.

- City Engineers actively working on the many construction projects in the area such as Gate Hill, Red Forest Way, Hill Farm, etc. Meeting weekly with North Oaks Company, City, and NOHOA making tweaks as needed to address any concerns and preserve trees where possible. Paving at Gate Hill may occur within the next week.

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

Looking for Resident Photographs of North Oaks!

The City would like to highlight 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.

COMMUNITY

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SAFETY

Crimes of Opportunity - Be a Hard Target

There was an attempted garage theft this week in the community. Sherriff Lee reminds residents to be a hard target. Keep garage and service doors closed and locked when not in active use, keep valuables out of sight and remove garage remote controls in cars left in driveways, and do not place car keys just inside the garage door in the house.

Please also be aware of phishing fraud in the community. Watch this [brief video from Officer Burrell](#) put together last year, as a reminder of what phishing is and how to spot this before you become a victim. Do not provide personal information or respond to emails or texts from persons that you are not known to you. Some of these inquiries may look like legitimate sources, when in doubt, call the Company

directly to determine if it is a valid inquiry. If you believe you have been victim of a potential fraud, report it to Sherriff's office non-emergency #651-291-1111.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Drought Conditions throughout Minnesota – Help conserve our Natural Resources

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. 13 shows:

- 43% of Minnesota is experiencing abnormally dry conditions, unchanged from last week.
- 24% of the state is in moderate drought, up from 23% last week.
- 8% is in severe drought, unchanged from last week.
- 4% is in extreme drought, unchanged from last week.

The current U.S. Drought Monitor map for Minnesota is available on the [drought page of the DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/Climate/Drought).

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](#) (mndnr.gov/Waters/WaterMgmt_Section/Appropriations/Conservation.html) and identify ways to reduce water use. Reducing use today saves water for the future.

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The easiest and most effective way to stay safe and survive a fall into the water is to wear a life jacket. Having a life jacket “nearby” will not help in an accidental fall. Foam life jackets are the best option when the water is cold because inflatable life jackets may not fully inflate. Changes in weather that result in shifting winds and storms can also lead to a treacherous situation, so it’s vital for anglers, hunters and others recreating on or near the water to keep an eye to the sky.

Fall Yard Waste

As leaves start to fall and pile up in your yard, a reminder that leaves and branches should never be put in our wetlands. Bring your leaves, branches and other yard waste to a Ramsey County yard waste site. It's free! A list of locations, hours and what they accept can be found [HERE](#). If you need assistance by a lawn care company, many of the [North Oaks licensed certified tree care companies](#) also do fall yard cleanups.

City Hall Office – October Office hours

The City Hall office will be undergoing 3-4 weeks of office renovation beginning Monday, October 3rd. During this period, City Hall will be available for walk-in business from 9 – Noon each day from the 1st floor Suite 150 Community Room / Conference chambers. There will be no interruption to meetings scheduled in this room.

Access to physical files may be limited during the construction period, however City staff will continue to process business remotely during the regular business hours of Monday – Thursday 9 – 4 p.m., and Friday 9 – Noon. For the most efficient response, please email requests to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or call 651-792-7750. We appreciate your patience during this period.

Historical City Eblast Communications

Just a reminder that all former City of North Oaks Eblasts can be accessed at any time on the City Website under City Hall [Weekly Town News](#).

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 Meeting** – tbd at 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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Monday – Friday: 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. in person from Community Room in Suite 150

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/21/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Office Hours:

The week of 10/24-10/28 – the City office will be open to the public 9 a.m. – noon each day from the Suite 150 Community Room, while construction continues in the City office. After this time, please email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov or leave a message at 651-792-7750. City Staff will respond to business items until 4 p.m. each day.

Safe travels for those traveling for the MEA school break this weekend!

Reminder: Garage or Screen Boats and Trailers from View

As the weather turns colder and the community prepares for winter, please remember to garage or screen boats, trailers, campers and other recreational vehicles from view. Ordinance 151.028(H) 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.), but not permanently stored in clear view in front of your home.

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As the election approaches, the City office is getting more inquiries as to what will be on their ballot, where to vote and how to research candidates. See what is on your ballot [HERE](#).

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- Ramsey County Library, 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN. Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
- Also Starting Nov. 1-4th: White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake. Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sources of Candidate Information:

- NineNorth Cable TV [Election Resource videos](#):
 - [Mayor/Councilmember Candidate Speak outs](#) (recorded introductions/remarks),
 - League of Women's Voters [Candidate question/answer Forums for Mayor, City Council, House Representatives District 36A and 36B and Senate District 36](#).
- October issue of the [North Oaks News](#)
- Candidate information sent to mailboxes / Meet your candidate events

Thanks for your interest in the upcoming election!

COMMUNITY

North Oaks Women's Guild Holiday Home Tour and Boutique

It's back! The North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) are excited to get you in the holiday spirit with the annual Holiday Home Tour and Boutique on November 18th (9 am – 3 pm) and 19th (9am - 2 pm). This event includes a tour of 2 homes festively decorated by Twin Cities area designers and florists, a boutique and optional lunch.

The home tour begins and ends at North Oaks Golf Club. While waiting for your bus or before you head home, start your holiday shopping at the boutique which will include up to 20 vendors. The boutique is free and open to the public and will remain open an hour after the home tour ends. Tickets for the home tour are \$45 in advance (\$50 day of event) and can be purchased [HERE](#).

An optional \$33 lunch buffet will be available by reservation. To make a reservation, call the North Oaks Golf Club directly at 651-484-8585.

Santa is Coming to Town

Mark your calendars! From **3:00-5:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 4th**, Santa will be coming to town on a firetruck to wave to all the children and collect Toys for Tots. This will be in conjunction with the Homeowners Association Winterfest celebration. Keep an eye out for more information to come from NOHOA.

SAFETY

Halloween Safety

Looking ahead to a safe Halloween! While there are no "official" City treat or treat hours, children may be out walking neighborhoods Monday, October 31st between 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please prepare to dress your children in reflective items (glow sticks, etc.), and use extra caution if you are driving our City streets during these hours.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Emerald Ash Borer Presentation

Join the North Oaks Garden Club on Monday, **October 24th at 6:30 pm** in the Community Room, 100 Village Drive. City Forester Mark Rehder, will be talking about emerald ash borer, an evasive exotic pest from Asia, that is causing the loss of all of North Oaks ash trees, and other tree diseases, like Oak Wilt. He will discuss what strategies landowners can use to limit the impacts and what the future for ash trees in North Oaks will be. RSVP: nancygardenhans@yahoo.com

Coyote

As leaves start to fall and wildlife becomes more visible, coyote may be seen. In order to discourage coyotes from taking up residence on your property, it is important to remove potential food sources, cut back brush and lowest tree limbs because it may attract the type of wildlife coyotes thrive on. Make them as unwelcome as possible by making menacing noises, throw something to scare it away, and keep pets on leash supervised during this period. Before we know it, wildlife (and us) will be hunkered down for the winter.

The following has additional tips from DNR and Ramsey County: [Coexisting with the Coyote | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#). For additional questions or concerns, contact Ramsey County Animal Control Officer Lee at Mario.lee@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-248-2491.

Fall Yard Waste

As leaves start to fall and pile up in your yard, a reminder that leaves and branches should never be put in our wetlands. Bring your leaves, branches and other yard waste to a Ramsey County yard waste site. It's free! A list of locations, hours and what they accept can be found [HERE](#). If you need assistance by a lawn care company, many of the North Oaks licensed certified tree care companies also do fall yard cleanups.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Highlights from the Thursday, 10/13/22 City Council Meeting

- City Council approved consent items including: September 2022 City financials, mechanical and arborist licenses, and minutes from the special Council meeting on 4.26.22 and Regular meeting on 9.8.2022.
- Ramsey County Sherriff Lee's report included an attempted theft via an open garage service door this week. The burglary attempt was scared off by neighbors. Separately, suspects in a traffic stop at Village Center area were found to have catalytic converters and other theft materials. They were apprehended.
- There was an update and discussion on the Charley Lake Homeowners Association water connection project.
- Council approved Councilmember Hara and Administrator Kress to work together to discuss potential upgrades to Council chambers including tables, background wall, paint and wall art.
- Council passed [Ordinance 140 to place a moratorium on sale of cannabis products](#) within the City of North Oaks.
- Councilor Reports included updates on:
 - St. Paul Water authority/VLAWMO meeting to discuss water quality in our watershed.
 - Meeting with White Bear Township to discuss water conservation measures and public education.
 - Councilors, City Staff, NOHOA, City Forester and North Oaks Company meetings both onsite and offsite regarding Red Forest Way. Discussed value of having City Forester available to meet with new property owners as they design / implement new homes to advise of best practices to preserve root systems of significant trees where possible.
 - City met with NOHOA who articulated support for traffic calming measures that could be used seasonally and moveable. NOHOA / City engineers to discuss best location and implementation. Options include: temporary crosswalks, speed humps, and speed cushions with lifespan of items ranging from 9 months to several years of use.
 - Update on renovation project in City office.
 - City Administrator Kress will request DNR permits and tags for deer program. NRC/Council then to decide on whether/how to implement a program this season. There have also been substantial discussions about dangerous road locations in the community such as Ski/Buffalo/Sunset.
 - City Engineers actively working on the many construction projects in the area such as Gate Hill, Red Forest Way, Hill Farm, etc. Meeting weekly with North Oaks Company,

City, and NOHOA making tweaks as needed to address any concerns and preserve trees where possible. Paving at Gate Hill may occur within the next week.

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

Looking for Resident Photographs of North Oaks!

The City would like to highlight 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.

COMMUNITY

Early Voting Available – but NOT at North Oaks City Hall

Residents may vote early at the **Ramsey County Library** located at 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113 now through November 7th. Walk-ins are welcomed and no pre-registration for an absentee ballot is required. Voting hours are:

- [Ramsey County Library - Roseville](#)
 - Sept. 23 - Oct. 31: Weekdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 - Nov. 1 - 4: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 5: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Saturday)
 - Nov. 7: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- For the list of local candidates and to view the candidate forum, refer to : [League of Women Voters Minnesota - Candidate Information November 2022 Election | City of North Oaks, MN \(northoaksmn.gov\)](#)

- Click [HERE](#) for several informative videos featured by NineNorth including: opportunity for North Oaks candidates, and Senate and House candidates to record “Speak outs” to introduce themselves to the community

SAFETY

Crimes of Opportunity - Be a Hard Target

There was an attempted garage theft this week in the community. Sherriff Lee reminds residents to be a hard target. Keep garage and service doors closed and locked when not in active use, keep valuables out of sight and remove garage remote controls in cars left in driveways, and do not place car keys just inside the garage door in the house.

Please also be aware of phishing fraud in the community. Watch this [brief video from Officer Burrell](#) put together last year, as a reminder of what phishing is and how to spot this before you become a victim. Do not provide personal information or respond to emails or texts from persons that you are not known to you. Some of these inquiries may look like legitimate sources, when in doubt, call the Company directly to determine if it is a valid inquiry. If you believe you have been victim of a potential fraud, report it to Sherriff's office non-emergency #651-291-1111.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Drought Conditions throughout Minnesota – Help conserve our Natural Resources

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. 13 shows:

- 43% of Minnesota is experiencing abnormally dry conditions, unchanged from last week.
- 24% of the state is in moderate drought, up from 23% last week.
- 8% is in severe drought, unchanged from last week.
- 4% is in extreme drought, unchanged from last week.

The current U.S. Drought Monitor map for Minnesota is available on the [drought page of the DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/Climate/Drought).

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](#) (mndnr.gov/Waters/WaterMgmt_Section/Appropriations/Conservation.html) and identify ways to reduce water use. Reducing use today saves water for the future.

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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 Meeting** – Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, November 10th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, November 14th at 6:00 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—10/28/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Planning Commission Meeting Cancelled

The Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 27 was cancelled due to lack of business. If the Planning Commission meets in November, the date of the meeting will shift from the last Thursday of the month to a new date to be announced due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Early Voting Locations

As the election approaches, the City office is getting more North Oaks residents visiting the City office asking where they can vote early.

Nearest Early Voting Locations:

- Ramsey County Library, 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville.
 - Oct. 31: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Nov. 1 – 4: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 5th: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
 - November 7: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake.
 - Nov. 1 – 4th: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 5th: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
 - Nov. 7th: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On Election Day Tuesday, November 8th – all residents must vote ONLY at their assigned polling location. Precinct 1 votes at City Hall, and Precinct 2 votes at North Oaks Golf Club. Voting hours are 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Election Day.

For links to information to research candidates, see the "Reminders" section below from last week's eblast.

Halloween Safety

Just a reminder that this Monday, October 31st is Halloween. For many areas in North Oaks that means trick-or-treaters! While there are no official hours, please be extra cautious on the roads between 5-9 p.m. for kids walking the streets between homes on this much anticipated night. Parents- please be sure your child is wearing something reflective or glowing on them, as well as a carrying a flashlight.

Happy Halloween North Oaks!

COMMUNITY

Local Pumpkin Patches and Pumpkin Composting

If you're still looking for pumpkins and pumpkin patches for this weekend's Halloween festivities, visit the following website to find one of the 128 Minnesota Grown pumpkin farmers and learn how to pick the best pumpkins: [Minnesota Grown Pumpkins - Minnesota Grown](#)

After the trick-or-treaters have come and gone, pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks can be dropped off for free at Ramsey County yard waste collection sites. [Yard Waste | Ramsey County](#) .

World Stroke Day October 29

In honor of World Stroke Day 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.

SAFETY

Emergency Alert Awareness

Earlier this week, many residents received an emergency alert on their cell phones instructing them to shelter-in-place due to a homicide suspect at large. This alert was meant for the Roseville area only, and was inadvertently sent by authorities to a larger geographic area than intended.

This incident is a good opportunity to brush up on your knowledge of the Wireless Emergency Alert system. For more information about Wireless Emergency Alerts, what they mean and how to respond, visit: [Wireless Emergency Alerts | FEMA.gov](#)

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Reminder: Garage or Screen Boats and Trailers from View

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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, November 10th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council Canvassing Meeting** – Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – TBD (due to Thanksgiving Holiday) at 7:00 p.m.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—11/4/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

REMINDER: Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 6

Daylight Saving time ends Sunday, November 6 at 2 a.m. Remember to “Fall Back” and set your clocks back one hour on that date.

City Office Hours Resume / Veteran’s Day

The City office will return to our regular location and hours in Suite 230 starting Monday November 3, 2022. City Hall office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 – 4 p.m., and Friday 9 – 12 p.m.*

*The City office will be closed next Friday 11/11 in honor of Veteran’s Day. Thank you to all who have served our Country.

Election Day Reminder – Vote In-Person on Tuesday, November 8

Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day! North Oaks residents can vote in person on this day at one of two locations depending upon precinct:

- **Precinct 1** votes at North Oaks City Hall Chambers: 100 Village Center Dr., Suite 150, North Oaks, MN 55127
- **Precinct 2** votes at the North Oaks Golf Club: 54 East Oaks Road, North Oaks, MN 55127

Hours for voting are **7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

North Oaks is legislative district 36.

Unsure of which precinct or school district you reside in? Visit the [Polling Place Finder](#) or view the [North Oaks Voting Precincts Map](#). You can also view [what is on my ballot](#).

City Council Meeting Schedule adjustments

In order to officially certify the Election Results within 7 days of general election as legally required, City Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, 10/15 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via zoom. Meeting notices will be posted next week.

Unwanted Solicitors

North Oaks is a private community and door-to-door solicitation for business or political causes is not allowed. If you encounter a solicitor, please contact Ramsey County Sherriff’s Department Non-Emergency Dispatch to report them: 651-415-2100.

COMMUNITY

NOHOA Election and Candidate Information

From the North Oaks Homeowners Association: Voting is now open for the North Oaks Homeowner’s Association Board of Directors and proposed 2023 budget. Ballots were sent electronically and by mail by the Homeowners Association on November 1st to all Residential Members in good standing. Members are reminded to check their junk email folder if they have an email address on file and an email ballot has not been received. Paper ballots should be arriving in mailboxes shortly according to the current postal delivery schedule. **Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. on November 30th.**

To watch the Candidate Forum, read candidate bios and see the proposed budget, visit <https://www.nohoa.org/>

A Good Day to Give to the Hill Farm Historical Society

Thursday, November 17 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

Reminder: North Oaks Women's Guild Holiday Home Tour and Boutique – Coming Soon

Sign up for the annual North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) Holiday Home Tour and Boutique on November 18th (9 am – 3 pm) and 19th (9am - 2 pm). This event includes a tour of 2 homes festively decorated by Twin Cities area designers and florists, a boutique and optional lunch.

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An optional \$33 lunch buffet will be available by reservation. To make a reservation, call the North Oaks Golf Club directly at 651-484-8585.

SAFETY

New North Oaks Deputy Matt Lassegard

The City of North Oaks welcomes Matt Lassegard as our new Deputy. Please say hello to Deputy Lassegard as you see him out and about in the City! Thank you to former Deputy Pam Lee for her service to our City over the past year.

Deputy Lassegard can be reached with questions or concerns at matt.lassegard@ramseycounty.us or 651-266-7300 (office number). In case of urgent issues, please call 911.

Winter – Prepare and Be Aware

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

With the longer run of warmer weather this year, the reality of preparing for winter may have been easy to set aside. The time is now to check those filters, chimneys, heating systems, pilot lights, storm windows, and the other details before the subzero temps put our systems to the test.

A great source of information on how to prepare your household for the challenges of weather is [Plan Ahead for Disasters | Ready.gov](#), an official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Check it out when you have some time to seriously think about the future and how you can get ready for it.

There are suggestions on building your “go bag” in the event of weather emergencies, power outages, major snow storms and the like.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Burning Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is restricting open burning due to increased wildfire risk from dry conditions across much of Minnesota. The burning restrictions apply in Ramsey County.

The DNR will not issue permits for open burning of brush or yard waste in these counties until the burning restrictions are lifted. Residents should also take care with backyard campfires. “Extreme drought conditions in combination with dry fall vegetation, low humidity, and wind make for dangerous fire conditions,” said Allissa Reynolds, DNR wildfire prevention supervisor. “Restricting open burning prevents a burn pile from escaping and becoming a wildfire.”

Burning restrictions will be adjusted as conditions change. 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](http://mndnr.gov/BurnRestrictions) (mndnr.gov/BurnRestrictions).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Early Voting Locations

As the election approaches, the City office is getting more North Oaks residents visiting the City office asking where they can vote early.

Nearest Early Voting Locations:

- Ramsey County Library, 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville.
 - Oct. 31: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Nov. 1 – 4: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 5th: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
 - November 7: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake.
 - Nov. 1 – 4th: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 5th: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
 - Nov. 7th: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On Election Day Tuesday, November 8th – all residents must vote ONLY at their assigned polling location. Precinct 1 votes at City Hall, and Precinct 2 votes at North Oaks Golf Club. Voting hours are 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Election Day.

For links to information to research candidates, see the “Reminders” section below from last week’s eblast.

Pumpkin Composting

After the trick-or-treaters have come and gone, pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks can be dropped off for free at Ramsey County yard waste collection sites. [Yard Waste | Ramsey County](#) .

World Stroke Day October 29

In honor of World Stroke Day 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.

Emergency Alert Awareness

Earlier this week, many residents received an emergency alert on their cell phones instructing them to shelter-in-place due to a homicide suspect at large. This alert was meant for the Roseville area only, and was inadvertently sent by authorities to a larger geographic area than intended.

This incident is a good opportunity to brush up on your knowledge of the Wireless Emergency Alert system. For more information about Wireless Emergency Alerts, what they mean and how to respond, visit: [Wireless Emergency Alerts | FEMA.gov](#)

Historical City Eblast Communications

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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, November 10th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council Canvassing Meeting** – Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – TBD (due to Thanksgiving Holiday) at 7:00 p.m.

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

City of North Oaks

City Email: northoaks@northoaksmn.gov

Phone: 651-792-7750

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—11/11/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Office Hours Resume / Veteran's Day

The City office has returned to the regular location and hours in Suite 230. City Hall office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 – 4 p.m., and Friday 9 – 12 p.m.*

*The City office will be closed on Friday November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day. Thank you to all who have served our Country.

2022 City of North Oaks Election Results

Congratulations to Krista Wolter (Mayor-Elect), Mark Azman and John Shuman (Councilmembers-elect) who will begin their terms starting January 1st, 2023.

Thank you to Mayor Ries, Councilmembers Rich Dujmovic and Jim Hara for their years of dedicated service to our community. The detail of votes in this close North Oaks election can be found under the Elections tab [on the City website](#).

The election results for all offices across the state can be found on the [Minnesota Secretary of State website](#). Thank you to the Community for coming out to vote!

November City Council Meeting Updates

The North Oaks City Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 10th at 7pm was cancelled. In order to officially certify the Election Results within 7 days of general election as legally required, City Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, 10/15 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via zoom. Canvassing of election results must take place between 3-7 days following the election, therefore the regular Council meeting date of 11/10/22 slot did not meet the requirement.

The [special meeting notice and meeting agenda](#) have been posted to the City website and Facebook page. Links to participate via zoom can be found on the [City website](#) calendar. The meeting will also be available for viewing via Computer and on Cable Channel 16. A link to watch the meeting will also be posted following the special meeting.

Planning Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Planning Commission has 3 openings beginning January 1, 2023. 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 [appointment policy and submit the Board 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 has been extended to FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd at 4 p.m.

Thanksgiving Week - Recycling Shift's

For those of you with Thursday and Friday recycling pickups, your day will shift back 1 day due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Those residents with normal Thursday pickups will be Friday 11/25 and Friday regular pickups will be on Saturday 11/26.

Please contact your respective Garbage provider to confirm the dates of their pickups during this holiday week.

COMMUNITY

A Good Day to Give to the Hill Farm Historical Society

Thursday, November 17 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

SAFETY

Walking Safety

With the associated early onset of nightfall due to the time change, please drive safely and wear bright clothing if you will be out walking our community streets.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resource Meeting – Monday, 11/14/22

There will be a Natural Resource meeting on Monday, 11/14/2022 at 6 p.m. The City Forester Mark Rehder will be talking about Emerald Ash Borer. Click [HERE](#) for links to participate in this meeting. All are welcome.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Unwanted Solicitors

North Oaks is a private community and door-to-door solicitation for business or political causes is not allowed. If you encounter a solicitor, please contact Ramsey County Sherriff's Department Non-Emergency Dispatch to report them: 651-415-2100.

Reminder: North Oaks Women's Guild Holiday Home Tour and Boutique – Coming Soon

Sign up for the annual North Oaks Guild 1 of Children's Hospital Association (CHA) Holiday Home Tour and Boutique on November 18th (9 am – 3 pm) and 19th (9am - 2 pm). This event includes a tour of 2 homes festively decorated by Twin Cities area designers and florists, a boutique and optional lunch.

The home tour begins and ends at North Oaks Golf Club. While waiting for your bus or before you head home, start your holiday shopping at the boutique which will include up to 20 vendors. The boutique is free and open to the public and will remain open an hour after the home tour ends. Tickets for the home tour are \$45 in advance (\$50 day of event) and can be purchased [HERE](#).

An optional \$33 lunch buffet will be available by reservation. To make a reservation, call the North Oaks Golf Club directly at 651-484-8585.

New North Oaks Deputy Matt Lassegard

The City of North Oaks welcomes Matt Lassegard as our new Deputy. Please say hello to Deputy Lassegard as you see him out and about in the City! Thank you to former Deputy Pam Lee for her service to our City over the past year.

Deputy Lassegard can be reached with questions or concerns at matt.lassegard@ramseycounty.us or 651-266-7300 (office number). In case of urgent issues, please call 911.

Winter – Prepare and Be Aware

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

With the longer run of warmer weather this year, the reality of preparing for winter may have been easy to set aside. The time is now to check those filters, chimneys, heating systems, pilot lights, storm windows, and the other details before the subzero temps put our systems to the test.

A great source of information on how to prepare your household for the challenges of weather is [Plan Ahead for Disasters | Ready.gov](#), an official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Check it out when you have some time to seriously think about the future and how you can get ready for it.

There are suggestions on building your "go bag" in the event of weather emergencies, power outages, major snow storms and the like.

Burning Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is restricting open burning due to increased wildfire risk from dry conditions across much of Minnesota. The burning restrictions apply in Ramsey County.

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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.

- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Special City Council Canvassing Meeting** – Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – TBD (due to Thanksgiving Holiday) 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—11/18/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

City Hall Office Closure – Thanksgiving Holiday

City Hall offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Best wishes to the community for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Highlights from the November 14, 2022 Natural Resources Commission Meeting

- City Forester Mark Rehder spoke on Emerald Ash Borer, its current impact around North Oaks, and options for addressing this issue.
- The Climate Action Plan will be reviewed at the December NRC meeting.
- Councilor Watson provided key aspects of the White Bear Township Water discussions.

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

Highlights from the Tuesday, November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting

- City Council approved consent items including: October 2022 City financials, mechanical and arborist licenses, and minutes from the City Council meeting on 10.13.22.
- City Council Approved Resolution 1469, Resolution to Canvass the Results of the November 8, 2022 General Election. This resolution approves Krista Wolter for a 2-year term as Mayor, John M. Shuman for a 4-year term as Councilmember, and Mark Azman for a 4-year term as Councilmember.
- Councilor Jim Hara presented on plans for updating the table in the City Hall Chambers. Council authorized Councilor Hara and City Administrator Kress to move forward with designing and ordering the table, and for making any necessary design changes after consultation with the North Oaks Homeowners Association.

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

Thanksgiving Week - Recycling Shifts

For those of you with Thursday and Friday recycling pickups, your day will shift back 1 day due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Those residents with Thursday pickups will shift to Friday 11/25, and Friday pickups will shift to Saturday 11/26.

Please contact your respective Garbage provider to confirm the dates of their pickups during this holiday week.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Free Park Friday for Minnesota State Parks and Trails

On Friday, November 25, all Minnesota State Parks and trails will be waiving entrance fees for all 75 Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. This is one of four free park days that are offered throughout the year. It's a great opportunity to get outside and explore! For more information, visit [Free entrance days to all Minnesota state parks | Minnesota DNR](#)

COMMUNITY

James J. Hill House Holiday Tours

For those history buffs, Holidays on the Hill tours are set to take place November 25th – 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.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://hubs.la/Q01sr4Kd0>

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 <https://goo.gl/maps/ZbfYTPyMDZ2xCqcT6>

5545 Lexington Ave, Shoreview <https://goo.gl/maps/icjUPzdLnEgzdMEz6>

3615 Victoria St. Shoreview <https://goo.gl/maps/ndvr1fusJwReDg927>

SAFETY

Prevent Auto Theft

Perpetrators are on the look-out for easy targets. These are cars left open, especially cars left running.

When a car is left running, particularly in the winter, would-be thieves can notice this easily via the exhaust signature. One look to see if there is anyone in the vehicle, and within seconds they can be headed toward Highway 35... in your car! In addition, your home can be at risk too if perpetrators gain access to garage door openers left in an open vehicle.

Often times, perpetrators look for running cars to steal by driving slowly through the neighborhood with other would-be offenders in the same vehicle. Be careful when warming up vehicles during this winter season. Let's avoid being easy targets and look out for our neighbors. Please call 911 to report any suspicious activity.

Safety reminders for the Holiday Season

From the November, 2022 Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain Newsletter:

Nothing can ruin the holiday spirit faster than becoming a victim of crime. Unfortunately, the holiday season is a time of opportunity for thieves to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards and gifts.

Prevent theft from your vehicle:

- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.

- Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk.
- If you must leave personal property in your vehicle, make sure it is out of view.
- Be aware in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.

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.

Financial card and online shopping considerations:

- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well-lit and in a safe location.
- Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to verify your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.

Home security and safety tips:

- Don't display wrapped boxes under a lighted tree in the front window for thieves to see as they drive past your home.
- Don't pile up-empty gift boxes from your new computers, televisions, game systems and other electronics in front of your home on garbage day. Thieves will appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside your home for them to steal. Instead, break down boxes and conceal the advertising when setting them out for recycling.
- Do NOT post your activities (gifts or plans to be away from home) on social media pages.
- Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

City Office Hours Resume

The City office has returned to the regular location and hours in Suite 230. City Hall office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 – 4 p.m., and Friday 9 – 12 p.m.*

2022 City of North Oaks Election Results

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Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission should review the [appointment policy and submit the Board 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 has been extended to FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd at 4 p.m.

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--Hill Farm Historical Society

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- **Planning Commission Meeting** – TBD (due to Thanksgiving Holiday) at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resources Commission Meeting** – Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6 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—12/02/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

On **Sunday, December 4th** from **3:00-5:00 p.m.** Santa will be traveling through North Oaks on a fire truck with the Lake Johanna Fire Department. He will wave to children as he passes, and donations will be accepted by the fire department for Toys for Tots.

The North Oaks Homeowner's Association will be hosting Winter Fest following Santa's trip through town. Members gather at the **West Rec between 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

For more information about the event and timing of Santa's route, visit: [Home \(nohoa.org\)](http://nohoa.org)

Truth in Taxation Special Meeting

The annual Truth in Taxation special meeting will take place at 6:45 p.m. next Thursday, December 8th, 2022 just prior to the regular 7 p.m. council meeting. Residents are welcome to attend in person or watch remotely. Meeting materials and links to view will be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting, and can be accessed by selecting the [meeting calendar entry](#) on the City website.

Planning Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Planning Commission will have 3 vacancies beginning January 1, 2023. 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), 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.

The City of North Oaks is also accepting applications to the Natural Resources Commission. This body is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the second Monday of the month. The Commission evaluates Conservation Award applications along with developing and educating residents on best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on either Commission should review the [appointment policy and submit the Board 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. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Call City Hall at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Snow Removal / Fire Hydrants

As you begin to think about snow removal for the winter, 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. 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. 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 a safe winter season!

Gas Line Repairs

Xcel Energy has been working throughout the City replacing failing gas lines. Currently Xcel and their contractor, Q3 Contractors, are working along East Oaks Road near the Club. Residents may experience some noise and traffic diversions during this period. The project is expected to be complete by next weekend, so make plans accordingly.

NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Webinars

Looking to enhance your outdoor skills this winter? Winter listings are now available in the DNR webinar series. Options include everything from Snowmobiling in Minnesota, Shed Antler Hunting Basics, Foundational Fire Starting and more.

Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. For more information, visit [Outdoor skills & stewardship | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_skills_stewardship/)

Arborist Workshop

City Forester Mark Rehder will be hosting an Arborist Workshop on Wednesday, December 21st from 9-10 a.m. in the City Hall Chambers, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. This workshop is geared toward tree companies seeking licensure in the City, but is also open to anyone interested in tree care and tree health in North Oaks. To attend, please RSVP to City Hall at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

COMMUNITY

Looking for Festive Holiday Lights?

Thanks to our neighboring Shoreview Community for publishing their 2021 Holiday Light Map! Tour the biggest and brightest local displays: <https://bit.ly/3maffas>

For links to light shows 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.

A special shout out those in our own North Oaks community showing holiday spirit brightening these early dark winter days.

Northeast Youth Family Services

Need extra mental and emotional support during this holiday season? The City of North Oaks has a long-standing relationship supporting the nonprofit organization Northeast Youth and Family Services, whose mission is to provide mental health and community support through the following:

- Clinic-based and telehealth counseling for all ages
- School-based Services
- Day treatment services for middle and high school youth
- Diversion programming for youth

- Community Advocate services
- Senior chore services

Go to <https://www.nyfs.org/> to learn more about the full range of services they provide, and how to reach out for assistance.

SAFETY

Ice Safety

From the Minnesota DNR: As fall gives way to winter, it's vital to keep ice safety in mind anytime you're on or near the water

Please remember that ice seldom freezes uniform, especially early in the season and that a variety of factors — including air temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and fish – have an impact.

Wait for at least 4 inches of clear, solid ice to form. If you're in an area with more ice coverage, check the ice 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.

More info: mndnr.gov/safety/ice

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Highlights from the November 14, 2022 Natural Resources Commission Meeting

- City Forester Mark Rehder spoke on Emerald Ash Borer, its current impact around North Oaks, and options for addressing this issue.
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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 <https://goo.gl/maps/ZbfYTPyMDZ2xCqcT6>

5545 Lexington Ave, Shoreview <https://goo.gl/maps/icjUPzdLnEgzdMEz6>

3615 Victoria St. Shoreview <https://goo.gl/maps/ndvr1fusJwReDg927>

Prevent Auto Theft

Perpetrators are on the look-out for easy targets. These are cars left open, especially cars left running.

When a car is left running, particularly in the winter, would-be thieves can notice this easily via the exhaust signature. One look to see if there is anyone in the vehicle, and within seconds they can be headed toward Highway 35... in your car! In addition, your home can be at risk too if perpetrators gain access to garage door openers left in an open vehicle.

Often times, perpetrators look for running cars to steal by driving slowly through the neighborhood with other would-be offenders in the same vehicle. Be careful when warming up vehicles during this winter season. Let's avoid being easy targets and look out for our neighbors. Please call 911 to report any suspicious activity.

Safety reminders for the Holiday Season

From the November, 2022 Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Block Captain Newsletter:

Nothing can ruin the holiday spirit faster than becoming a victim of crime. Unfortunately, the holiday season is a time of opportunity for thieves to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards and gifts.

Prevent theft from your vehicle:

Don't leave valuables in your vehicle. Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area. When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk. If you must leave personal property in your vehicle, make sure it is out of view. Be aware in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.

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.

Financial card and online shopping considerations:

If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well-lit and in a safe location. Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to verify your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.

Home security and safety tips:

Don't display wrapped boxes under a lighted tree in the front window for thieves to see as they drive past your home. Don't pile up-empty gift boxes from your new computers, televisions, game systems and other electronics in front of your home on garbage day. Thieves will appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside your home for them to steal. Instead, break down boxes and conceal the advertising when setting them out for recycling. Do NOT post your activities (gifts or plans to be away from home) on social media pages. Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.

Historical City Eblast Communications

Just a reminder that all former City of North Oaks Eblasts can be accessed at any time on the City Website under City Hall [Weekly Town News](#).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/09/2022

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- Deputy Matt Lassegard introduced himself as the new North Oaks dedicated deputy. He noted several accidents on the periphery of the City and intersections.
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- Councilor Shah thanked fellow councilors for their service, and wished everyone a happy holiday.
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Pet Ordinance

The City has had several complaints this week of barking dogs. As winter sets in and there is less buffering of sound with tree growth, a reminder that it is each pet owners' responsibility to ensure your pet:

- is not left outside barking and disrupting neighbors
- does not leave your property or charge or rush at passerby's

- is licensed with the City. To submit for a pet license, send proof of rabies vaccination from Veterinarian to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov along with [the \\$15 animal licensing fee](#).

The full Licensing, Vaccination, and Control of Domestic Animals Ordinance 90.15 – 90.26, along with the definition of Public Nuisance animals can be found [HERE](#). If there are any issues, contact the Ramsey County Animal Control Officer Mario Lee at 651-248-2491 or Mario.lee@co.ramsey.mn.us. If there is an urgent issue, contact 911.

City Hall Holiday Schedule

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COMMUNITY

Santa Cruise Greeted Residents

Thanks to all residents who came out last Sunday afternoon to greet Santa, as he rode on top a Lake Johanna Fire department truck delivering holiday cheer to North Oaks residents. It was a chilly, but beautiful ride through North Oaks! Happy Holidays! Thanks to the North Oaks Homeowners Association, City Hall and Lake Johanna Fire Department for joining together to put on this 3rd annual event.

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The Ramsey County Sheriff is now accepting children's toys and gently used winter clothing. You can help make the holidays happy and warm for our neighbors by dropping off children's toys and warm winter clothing for all ages at one of our three drop boxes. Donations will be accepted from Thursday, Dec. 1 through Monday, Dec. 19. Thank you for helping if you can!

Drop-off locations:

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24/7 Dropbox

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SAFETY

Smart Salting for Winter Safety

'Tis the season for snow and ice... and that means slippery driveways and walkways! The Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization has a guide for how to maintain safe surfaces in the winter while reducing excess salt that can harm the watershed. Visit [VLAWMO :: Smart Salting](#) for tips and resources.

Christmas Tree Safety

In the midst of holiday traditions, don't forget to practice essential safety tips for a safe and festive holiday:

- Keep 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

Minnesota DNR Great Minnesota Ski Pass

If you are interested in getting out and exploring Minnesota State Parks this winter, check out the Great Minnesota Ski Pass. This pass is your ticket to more than 1,100 miles of ski trails at over 90 state, regional, and local places statewide. Funding from the pass supports grooming and trail maintenance in partnership with local ski clubs. Buy your pass online: mndnr.gov/skipass

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

City Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Planning Commission will have 3 vacancies beginning January 1, 2023. 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), 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 last Thursday of each month.

The City of North Oaks is also accepting applications to the Natural Resources Commission. This body is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the second Monday of the month. The Commission evaluates Conservation Award applications along with developing and educating residents on best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on either Commission should review the [appointment policy and submit the Board 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. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Call City Hall at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Snow Removal / Fire Hydrants

As you begin to think about snow removal for the winter, 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. 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. 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 a safe winter season!

Gas Line Repairs

Xcel Energy has been working throughout the City replacing failing gas lines. Currently Xcel and their contractor, Q3 Contractors, are working along East Oaks Road near the Club. Residents may experience some noise and traffic diversions during this period. The project is expected to be complete by next weekend, so make plans accordingly.

DNR Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Webinars

Looking to enhance your outdoor skills this winter? Winter listings are now available in the DNR webinar series. Options include everything from Snowmobiling in Minnesota, Shed Antler Hunting Basics, Foundational Fire Starting and more.

Each webinar begins at noon on Wednesdays and lasts less than an hour. For more information, visit [Outdoor skills & stewardship | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor-skills-stewardship/)

Arborist Workshop

City Forester Mark Rehder will be hosting an Arborist Workshop on Wednesday, December 21st from 9-10 a.m. in the City Hall Chambers, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. This workshop is geared toward tree companies seeking licensure in the City, but is also open to anyone interested in tree care and tree health in North Oaks. To attend, please RSVP to City Hall at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Looking for Festive Holiday Lights?

Thanks to our neighboring Shoreview Community for publishing their 2021 Holiday Light Map! Tour the biggest and brightest local displays: <https://bit.ly/3maffas>

For links to light shows 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.

A special shout out those in our own North Oaks community showing holiday spirit brightening these early dark winter days.

Northeast Youth Family Services

Need extra mental and emotional support during this holiday season? The City of North Oaks has a long-standing relationship supporting the nonprofit organization Northeast Youth and Family Services, whose mission is to provide mental health and community support through the following:

- Clinic-based and telehealth counseling for all ages
- School-based Services
- Day treatment services for middle and high school youth
- Diversion programming for youth
- Community Advocate services
- Senior chore services

Go to <https://www.nyfs.org/> to learn more about the full range of services they provide, and how to reach out for assistance.

Ice Safety

From the Minnesota DNR: As fall gives way to winter, it’s vital to keep ice safety in mind anytime you’re on or near the water

Please remember that ice seldom freezes uniform, especially early in the season and that a variety of factors — including air temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and fish — have an impact.

Wait for at least 4 inches of clear, solid ice to form. If you're in an area with more ice coverage, check the ice 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.

More info: mndnr.gov/safety/ice

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/16/2022

IMPORTANT UPDATES

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Wishing all North Oaks Residents a very happy and safe holiday season!!

Recycling Pickups – Winter / Holiday

It's winter, with that comes the challenges of our narrow, snowy slippery roads and icy driveways. This week, there was even a day that Eureka Recycling pulled all their trucks off the road due to the number of trucks getting stuck. This caused our own Recycler to end early as there was no place to dump loads, causing an unanticipated 1-day delay in the pickup for some. Please know every effort is made to safely pick up recycling each week. Please have it at the end of your driveway by 7 a.m. on your pickup day, and not in the road in the path of snow plows. If weather prohibits pick up for any reason, please have patience and know in some rare cases it may have to be picked up the following week.

Reminder: During the upcoming 2 holiday weeks, there will be NO changes to the recycling schedule pickup schedule since the holidays fall on weekends. If you wish to recognize or get a holiday thank you to your pick-up driver, feel free to mail or drop it at the City Office and it will be passed along.

COMMUNITY

Holiday Lights Recycling

Do you have holiday lights that no longer work? Recycle them at the North Oaks City Hall Office! Drop-off your lights at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230 during business hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m.-Noon. Lights will be collected for recycling through the end of January, 2023.

Tips for Disposing of Holiday Wrapping

From the Green Ramsey County Newsletter:

Packages, boxes, bags, cards; The holidays can be filled with single-use items. Make sure you know how to properly dispose of them.

Think reuse first: What can you use again before disposing? Save bows, gift bags and tissue paper that can be reused. Think of creative ways to package gifts that don't require new materials.

Holiday cards: Cards and envelopes made of only paper should be placed in the curbside recycling bin or your apartment's recycling collection. Cards with foil, glitter, ribbons or velvet are not recyclable and should be placed in the trash.

Cards that light up or play music do not belong in the trash because they contain batteries. Bring them to the year-round household hazardous waste collection site for free.

Wrapping paper: Put wrapping paper in the trash. Do not put it in your recycling bin because it does not sort easily at the recycling facility and may contain materials that cannot be recycled.

Find disposal options for other items, including cardboard boxes, real and artificial trees and string lights on our [A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide](#).

SAFETY

Scam Alert from Ramsey County Sherriff

Scammers are dialing for dollars, preying on the emotions of grandparents who would do anything to help their grandchildren.

If your phone rings and the person on the other end of the line claims to be your grandchild in need of money—verify everything before you give anything. Chances are, it's dirty, rotten scam.

Don't let these scammers ruin your holidays. Don't let them pressure you or make you feel bad. Don't take their word for it, no matter how much they beg, plead or lie. Just take a little time to verify the story, the situation and the need.

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/30/2022

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Wishing all North Oaks Residents, a very safe and Happy New Year!!

City Council Special Meeting

During a special meeting on Friday December 30th, City Council approved an employment agreement to recognize the excellent work and knowledge of 22-year employee Deputy Clerk Stephanie Marty. Thanks Stephanie for your long-standing commitment to our City!

COMMUNITY

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!

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](#).

REMINDERS – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Holiday Lights Recycling

Do you have holiday lights that no longer work? Recycle them at the North Oaks City Hall Office! Drop-off your lights at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230 during business hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m.-Noon. Lights will be collected for recycling through the end of January, 2023.

Tips for Disposing of Holiday Wrapping

From the Green Ramsey County Newsletter:

Packages, boxes, bags, cards; The holidays can be filled with single-use items. Make sure you know how to properly dispose of them.

Think reuse first: What can you use again before disposing? Save bows, gift bags and tissue paper that can be reused. Think of creative ways to package gifts that don't require new materials.

Holiday cards: Cards and envelopes made of only paper should be placed in the curbside recycling bin or your apartment's recycling collection. Cards with foil, glitter, ribbons or velvet are not recyclable and should be placed in the trash.

Cards that light up or play music do not belong in the trash because they contain batteries. Bring them to the year-round household hazardous waste collection site for free.

Wrapping paper: Put wrapping paper in the trash. Do not put it in your recycling bin because it does not sort easily at the recycling facility and may contain materials that cannot be recycled.

Find disposal options for other items, including cardboard boxes, real and artificial trees and string lights on our [A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide](#).

Recycling Pickups – Winter / Holiday

It's winter, with that comes the challenges of our narrow, snowy slippery roads and icy driveways. Recently, there was a day that Eureka Recycling pulled all their trucks off the road and closed early due to the number of trucks getting stuck. This caused our own Recycler to end early as there was no place to dump loads, causing an unanticipated delay in the pickup for some homes. Please know every effort is made to safely pick up recycling each week.

Please have it at the end of your driveway by 7 a.m. on your pickup day, and not in the road in the path of snow plows. If weather prohibits pick up for any reason, please have patience and know in some rare cases it may have to be picked up the following week. If there are any significant issues which cause an impact to recycling pick up for a large section of homes, the update will be placed on the City of North Oaks Facebook page and in the red alert bar on the City website.

* During the upcoming New Year's holiday week, there will be NO change to the recycling schedule. If you wish to recognize or get a holiday thank you to your pick-up driver, feel free to mail or drop it at the City Office and it will be passed along.

Scam Alert from Ramsey County Sheriff

Scammers are dialing for dollars, preying on the emotions of grandparents who would do anything to help their grandchildren.

If your phone rings and the person on the other end of the line claims to be your grandchild in need of money—verify everything before you give anything. Chances are, it's dirty, rotten scam. Don't let these scammers ruin your holidays. Don't let them pressure you or make you feel bad. Don't take their word for it, no matter how much they beg, plead or lie. Just take a little time to verify the story, the situation and the need.

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** – Monday, January 9th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** – Thursday, January 12, 2023 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

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.*